

# **GM 513**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA, for a term to expire  
December 1, 2014.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony on GM 513  
Confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata  
Director, Department of Public Safety

Governor Neil Abercrombie

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

February 17, 2011  
2:45 p.m. Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and committee members, I respectfully ask for your favorable support of my nominee Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Since being appointed on November 29, 2010, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has shown tremendous leadership skills within the DPS. Her management abilities and skillset are exactly what is needed in the DPS to move the state forward. She also understands the challenges ahead and that it will take all of us to make a difference.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is the right person to lead the DPS and I am proud to have her as a member of my team to ensure a New Day in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration to confirm this leader.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Martha Torney  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Deputy Director  
Corrections

Keith Kamita  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

February 17, 2011

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
GM 513

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military  
Affairs

FROM: Matha Torney, MA  
Deputy Director for Administration

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). Over the past twenty years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata on a number of corrections issues, most importantly as they relate to inmate programming and community reintegration.

During her tenure with the Department, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has held a number of both direct service and administrative positions. She began her career as a case manager at the Oahu Community Correctional Center in 1989, moved to the central office in 1994 to serve as the statewide Volunteer Services Officer, was promoted to the Community-Based Administrator for OCCC in 2002, and then asked to become the Acting Waiawa Correctional Facilitator Warden in January 2008. It is clear that

her career with PSD has been successful as shown by progressive promotions to higher positions.

By far, the most important position she has held to prepare her for leading the Department is Warden. Being a warden is akin to being the mayor of a small city. You are responsible for infrastructure, building maintenance, Capitol Improvement Projects, creating and executing budgets, procurement, personnel management, and the health, safety and well-being of the resident population. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata effectively and efficiently carried out her duties, while boosting the morale of the staff and enhancing the re-entry programs to promote Waiawa inmates' successful transition into the community. She has fostered a very positive partnership with the Hawaii Government Employees Association and the United Public Workers that is essential to good management-employee relationship.

Governor Abercrombie has clearly stated his intent to return to Hawaii as many inmates incarcerated on the Mainland as is possible. Given her extensive background and commitment to re-entry programs, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is a clear choice to lead this effort. She understands the importance of ensuring public safety is maintained through the careful and measured release of inmates by preparing them for re-entering society. This includes educational and vocational opportunities while incarcerated so inmates are prepared by real-world jobs, family reunification and counseling to provide support, and appropriate relapse prevention programs to reduce the incidence of recidivism. Through the development of a re-entry master plan, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata will expand the continuum of support programs in the community to reduce the return rate to prison especially technical violations of parole.

She comes to this hearing with considerable support of Department of Public Safety staff who have known her for an extended length of time. And she has shown a quick ability to learn the intricacies of the State bureaucracy, no easy task. With the

The Honorable Will Espero  
February 17, 2011  
Page 3

recent addition of myself and Deputy Director for Law Enforcement Keith Kamita, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is finally able to relieve herself of the day-to-day issues that has taken so much of her time during her first two months on the job. She can now focus on the bigger policy issues at hand during these very difficult economic times.

I firmly believe Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is the right choice to move the Department of Public Safety into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX OTANI  
ACTING CHAIR

ROY W. REEBER  
MEMBER

GAIL MURANAKA  
MEMBER

TOMMY JOHNSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY  
RELATING TO CONFIRMATION OF JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA  
FOR DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Max Otani  
Acting Chairman, Hawaii Paroling Authority

Committee on Public Safety  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 2:45 p.m.  
State Capital, Conference Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am providing testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for Director of the Department of Public Safety. I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata since she began her career with the Department as a case manager. The promotions that she received are results of her dedication and desire to provide quality service to the offender population. In her position as Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata recognized the need to expand the furlough population and started a furlough program out of that facility. Many were skeptical of her decision, however, the program at Waiawa continues today, providing a vital link for inmates in the reentry process.

While Ms. Maesaka-Hirata may not have prior experience directing a department, experience is only gained if given the opportunity. She is an individual that has shown she can make good decisions and has the passion to address public safety and offenders needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX OTANI  
ACTING CHAIR

ROY W. REEBER  
MEMBER

GAIL MURANAKA  
MEMBER

TOMMY JOHNSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 513**  
**Consideration and Confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata**  
**as Director of the Department of Public Safety**

By Tommy Johnson

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 2:45p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Senator Espero, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am providing testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

As the Paroles and Pardons Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and former Deputy Director for Corrections for the Department of Public Safety, I have worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata on a number of issues affecting both, the Hawaii Paroling Authority and the Corrections Division of the Department of Public Safety.

During that time, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has consistently displayed unwavering integrity, diligence, and an uncanny commitment to public service. She possesses the knowledge, abilities, professional experience, and I believe, the vision necessary to move the Department of Public Safety forward in these trying and extremely difficult economic times.

In addition, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has always placed the safety of the public first and foremost whether at Oahu Community Correctional Center, Waiawa Correctional Facility or as the Interim Director. Over the years, she has built strong working relationships with the staff of the Department and community based organizations that will assist her in realizing a new day for the Department and it's evolving approach to corrections and reintegration.

It is, therefore, without reservation that I strongly recommend the nomination of this qualified, and dedicated public servant as Director of the Department of Public Safety. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
HAWAII COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
60 Punahale Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2031

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Director  
Administration

Deputy Director  
Corrections

KEITH T. KAMITA  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

February 9, 2011

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety

FROM: <sup>PM</sup> Pete Mac Donald, Warden, Hawaii Community Correctional Center

SUBJECT: **MS. JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA, NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

This is a letter of support for the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, State of Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata for nearly twenty-five years. During that period, she worked on several administrative levels that included, but were not limited to, heading the Volunteer Services Office for all of Corrections, supervising extremely effective furlough programs at Oahu Community Correctional Center and managing Waiawa Correctional Facility as the Warden. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has repeatedly demonstrated a mastery for overseeing and expanding a number of successful reentry programs. In so doing, she has shown that she has the experience and skill to ensure that great numbers of inmates are prepared for resocialization and productive lifestyles. At a time when our inmates are being regularly classified to minimum and community custody status, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata offers the outstanding leadership our Department requires in the reintegration of eligible offenders back to the community. Equally as important, her guidance in terms of reentry programs offers the probability of population relief for our facilities.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has the character traits that are much needed by public safety. She has a strong sense of ethics, sincerely believes in fairness and is unswerving in her pursuit of the goals of our Department. With Ms. Maesaka-Hirata as our Director, there will be no doubt that Hawaii has a correctional system, not a prison system.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
Hawaii Community Correctional Center  
60 Punahale Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

**Martha Torney**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Kelth Kamita**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

February 4, 2011

**TO:** Senator Will Espero, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety

**FROM:** Susan Segawa, Psychiatric Social Worker, Hawaii Community Correctional Center

**SUBJECT:** MS. JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA, NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Senators:

I support the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's many years of experience in a wide range of areas within the department has prepared her for this position. She will competently lead the PSD to focus on our stated mission, something which went amiss during the last administration.

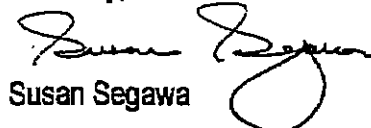
The PSD's Corrections Division is currently at a critical point in its attempt to return Hawaii's inmates from the Corrections Corporation of America's facilities on the mainland. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is experienced in inmate population control methodology, which includes successful reintegration and re-entry programs.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's record exhibits sound leadership qualities, fairness with staff as well as inmates, and a grounded understanding of true public service. Additionally, she is respected and admired for her integrity, dedication and compassion.

In conclusion, confirmation of Ms. Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the PSD will effectively move the department toward an improved reputation and record of accomplishments, a benefit to all communities within the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. If you are in need of further information, please contact me at number 933-0428 or 936-8037.

Sincerely,

  
Susan Segawa

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Martha Torney  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Deputy Director  
Corrections

Keith Kamita  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

February 15, 2011

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Public Safety

FROM: Lynn Kurata, Secretary to the Interim Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: MS. JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA, NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

I support the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has shown effective leadership as a social worker, head of the Public Safety Volunteer Services, Administrator of the Laumaka work furlough program at Oahu Community Correctional Center, and as the Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility. During her three years as the Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility she has made a difference by successfully developing the Waiawa work furlough program without additional staffing and she has also worked with the community to repair structures that were unsafe. She projects immense enthusiasm for improvement in the Public Safety Industry.

I have known her to have high ethical standards, fairness, integrity and dedication in whatever she pursues. She also has a special way of helping employees improve their skills to better themselves.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and I strongly recommend confirmation of Ms. Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lynn Kurata in cursive script.

Lynn Kurata

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Martha Torney  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Deputy Director  
Corrections

Keith Kamita  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

February 16, 2011

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
The Senate  
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony on GM 513

Dear Chair Espero and Vice Chair Kidani:

I would like to take this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation to the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jodie Maesaka-Hirata.

Throughout my twelve-year career with PSD, I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata to be a compassionate, caring, and capable person who is unafraid to do what is necessary to improve PSD. What sets her apart is her ability to balance the security needs, what is in the best interest of the inmates and the State of Hawaii.

It would be a pleasure to be able to assist Ms. Maesaka-Hirata in implementing her philosophy and ideas on how to move PSD forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 587-1250.

Sincerely,

Wesley Mun  
Corrections Health Care Administrator

February 15, 2011

TESTIMONY ON GM 513  
RELATING TO  
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Interim Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government,  
& Military Affairs  
Will Espero, Chair  
State Capitol, Conference Room

Senator Espero and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alan M. Asato, Administrator, Inspections and Investigations Office, Department of Public Safety. Having already committed nearly 23 years of my professional life to public service, I am fortunate to have worked with many highly skilled and committed individuals in the social service and helping professions. From my earliest experiences as a Youth Intake Center Worker at the Susannah Wesley Community Center in Kalihi to my various positions of increasing responsibility while in service to the State of Hawaii, these individuals that I have met along the way have helped me to nurture my own continuing professional growth with their fair and disciplined approach to leadership, breadth of knowledge, keen skills set, and self-less commitment to the core values of the helping professions; honesty, truth, caring, and genuineness. Among these influential practitioners and leaders, Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is a trusted colleague, peer, and friend. I am wholeheartedly in support of her confirmation as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I have no doubt the Committee has already received many testimonials and letters that speak to their high regard for the candidate and detail how they and many others feel she is eminently qualified and ready to take-on the challenges and responsibilities as our Director. Having known and worked with her for twenty-five years, I too can attest to her disciplined core values, tested leadership ability, and consensus building style of management.

Above all, I know she is passionate about the job. She has the sort of passion that can inspire confidence and commitment to a vision that, in her own words, "can take our Department to the next level." I am convinced she will be a superb Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Sincerely,



Alan Asato

Testimony

By Ted Sakai

Governor's Message 513 Relating to the Nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for  
Director of the Department of Public Safety  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Thursday, February 17, 2011, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Senator Espero, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Government Operations and Military Affairs:

I am pleased to register my support for the nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety. As a former Director of Public Safety (December 1998 to December 2002) I am very familiar with the requirements and demands of the position. As a professional who has worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata for almost twenty years, I am well aware of her character, values and abilities. I believe that she is qualified for the position, and will become an effective Director of Public Safety.

I first got to know Ms. Maesaka-Hirata in the early 1990's, when she was a case manager at the Halawa High Security Facility. I remember being impressed with this young woman who expertly convened and ran a case conference for a troublesome inmate, eliciting the views of security, program and health care staff to arrive at a case plan that satisfied all participants. I followed her career through the ensuing years, as she held positions of increasing responsibility and complexity - Volunteer Coordinator for the Department, Program Administrator at the Women's prison, Administrator for reentry programs at OCCC, and finally as the Warden of the Waiawa Correctional Facility. In each of these assignments, she displayed some admirable qualities:

- o The ability to pull people together to work for a common cause. She is a connector who can bring people together and move in the same direction.
- o A real curiosity and willingness to learn. She asks good questions and listens carefully to what others have to tell her.
- o A healthy bias toward action. I have seen her take the initiative to implement an innovative parenting program at Waiawa, focus groups at the Women's facility, and a reentry program at Waiawa – with minimal or no resources, simply because they were the right thing to do.
- o An ethical center. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata knows who she is, as a person and as a professional, and she has a clear sense of right and wrong. More important, perhaps, she has the courage to do what is right even though it may not be popular at the moment.

*Ted I. Sakai and Associates*

47-571 Ahuimanu Road

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Ph: 808-722-3111 e-mail: sakait005@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony re: Governor's Message 513

«GreetingLine»

February 17, 2011

Page 2

Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is true professional who is willing to go outside her comfort zone to try new things. She has worked at all four correctional facilities on Oahu. She has held a central office position that required her to establish relationships with all facilities in the state. She has been successful at each step. The challenges inherent to the position of Director are new to her, of course. However, I am confident that she has the ability and character to meet these challenges.

I urge you to recommend that Jodie Maesaka-Hirata be confirmed as the Director of the Department of Public safety.

*Ted I. Sakai and Associates*

47-571 Ahuimanu Road

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Ph: 808-722-3111 e-mail: sakait005@hawaii.rr.com

# *Keith Kamita*

(808)864-9427 [K2Hawaii@gmail.com](mailto:K2Hawaii@gmail.com)

**Chair Espero and Vice Chair Michelle Kidani**

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations  
and Military Affairs

Testimony on GM 513

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 2:45 PM

Room 224

I have personally known and worked with Mrs. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for over ten years of my law enforcement career. While I was the Chief of the State's Narcotics Enforcement Division I had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Maesaka-Hirata and she has consistently demonstrate her ability to communicate and work effectively with state law enforcement agencies. Mrs. Maesaka-Hirata is an individual of high moral character and conviction, she has the ability to listen and address the needs of her peers as well as her willingness to be a team player. Mrs. Maesaka-Hirata's experience, administrative and interpersonal skills, combined with her dedication to duty have yielded outstanding results while she was the Acting Warden at the Waiawa Correctional Facility. Since taking the position as Deputy Director for Law Enforcement I have had the pleasure of working very closely with Interim Director Maesaka-Hirata and has witnessed her can do attitude while taking on the difficult challenges of running a department like Public Safety yet still show her generous and compassionate nature.

For these reasons I would like to give my highest recommendation for Mrs. Maesaka-Hirata to be confirmed as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Keith Kamita



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-6552

KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



ARMINA A. CHING  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR  
THE HONORABLE MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Twenty-sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawai'i

Thursday, February 17, 2011

**RE: GM# 513 – JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA**

It is my honor and privilege to testify today on behalf of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to serve as Director of Public Safety.

I first met Jodie Maesaka-Hirata during my own tenure as Director of the Department of Public Safety from 1997 to 1998 during the administration of Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano. Jodie, a social worker by education and by profession, was at the time the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the department. Her job was to recruit, assign, train and supervise all volunteers who worked in the state prison system. This also included supervising eight Branch Liaison Volunteer Coordinators, assisting with writing grants, program guidelines, and operational policies, and providing testimony to the Legislature on the entire program's progress, cost savings and long-term expansion goals. The nominee's ability to assess manpower needs, quantify the skills of applicants, place personnel where they were needed and could be most effective, and mediate disputes when they arose was superb.

I saw the potential in Jodie and asked her to expand her duties to run the Offender Services Section at the Women's Correctional Center. In this capacity she directly supervised the case managers responsible for evaluating the needs and providing services to female inmates, prepared parole plans for prisoners, offered crisis counseling to offenders, and implemented the referrals to outside social

service agencies that provided needed services to the women.

Jodie continued expanding her work responsibilities, progressing up the ranks into jobs of ever-increasing importance and challenge. She grew with each new opportunity. We moved her into Community-Based Administration at Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC), which houses male inmates. She supervised the Laumaka Work Furlough Program, which allowed prisoners to go outside and perform jobs and provide labor on projects of benefit to the community and taxpayers, such as cleaning roads, trimming trees and greenery along highways and other manual tasks. In this capacity she created and managed budgets, approved expenditure plans, assessed staffing, secured training for employees, and managed all personnel needs. Jodie went on to serve as Acting Warden at Waiawa Correctional Center which, to my knowledge, still remains the highest position in the state prison system held by a female. As Acting Warden she was in essence responsible for everything that went on in the prison, whether it involved inmates, guards, support staff, visitors or volunteers. She held this position for almost three years.

As a former Director of the Department of Public Safety, I know the complexities of the problems facing the Department. It is not how loud you speak but how firm you are to your convictions in doing what is right that is important. Jodie loves the Department and will do what is right for the Department.

Jodie Maesaka-Hirata comes from a family of ACOs, Adult Corrections Officers. Her father and two brothers were ACOs, as well as other relatives. She grew up knowing intimately those who served this important function, and developed a respect for the job and an admiration for those who performed it well. She has dedicated her professional life to working in our corrections system – not an easy path for a female to chose, and not an easy journey for any public servant to undertake. Jodie has performed every phase of her work in the Public Safety arena with professionalism, dedication and commitment. I am confident this next step will be no different for her, and that this committee will be grateful in time to have a public servant of the quality of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Sincerely,

KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
Prosecuting Attorney

**From:** [korokimatsumotofamily@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:korokimatsumotofamily@hawaiiantel.net) [mailto:[korokimatsumotofamily@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:korokimatsumotofamily@hawaiiantel.net)]

**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 9:45 AM

**To:** Sen. Will Espero

**Subject:** Governor's Message #513

Dear Senator Espero,

I am writing on behalf of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata (Governor's Message #513), who is currently seeking confirmation for her position as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. I have known Jodie for over 25 years and first met Jodie when she was a student in the Social Work program with the University of Hawaii. Jodie had a school practicum placement at the Susannah Wesley Community Center, where I was employed as a supervisor with one of the center's youth programs. I remember Jodie back then as a friendly and open young woman, who was willing, committed and unafraid. Her practicum position required her to do counseling and outreach with at risk youth in Kalihi, and involved home visits in the various housing projects in the area. Jodie also participated in community events sponsored by the center, to include fundraisers, community work days, and camping trips with our program kids (these lasted 3 to 4 days). Jodie was active in every aspect of our program, never complained, and was a positive member of the team. Jodie moved on to finish her Bachelor's Degree and then completed the Master's in Criminal Justice Administration program at Chaminade University. Jodie and I kept touch through the years, and I saw her get her first job at the Halawa Correctional Center and then move to just about every position in every public safety facility on Oahu. She started as a social worker, became a supervisor, and worked upward in the various administrative positions at the Halawa Correctional Facility, Oahu Community Correctional Center, Women's facility, and most recently as the Acting Warden at the Waiawa Correctional Facility. From our telephone talks and periodic after work retreats, I know first hand that she worked long and hard at each job, and I am not surprised that she has now been appointed as the Director of Public Safety.

Through it all, Jodie has remained my good friend. As busy as she may be, she has always returned my calls, was there to listen or share a moment, be a support, and lend an honest ear. She has, throughout her career, remained grounded as a person, and continues (even in her busy life) to devote time to her husband, son, mother, in-laws and friends. She is a person of solid character, and I believe that this will serve her well as she navigates this new chapter in her life. Jodie will get this job done, the same as she has managed all the others, and she will do it in a manner that is fair, and expedient. She is not one to play politics, she just does what she believes in right and she will stand by the decisions made. I like that about her...she is who she is, no games, no guessing. Jodie is direct, honest, and of sound integrity, and she leads with a balance of strength and compassion. Jodie loves her job, and loves the department,

and I have no doubt that she will lead with great heart, vision, and commitment. I am in full support of her appointment as the Director of the Department of Public Safety and ask for your support as she seeks confirmation from the State Senate.

Mahalo,

Jan Koroki-Matsumoto  
Senior Probation Officer  
First Judicial Circuit

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations,  
and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

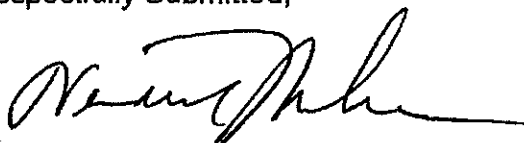
My name is Wendell Murakawa. I am currently the Division Administrator for the Intake Service Center, a component under the Public Safety Department, with a branch office on each of the major islands.

I have known Jodie Masesaka-Hirata for over 15 years, and I have witnessed her career progress from a Social Worker to Warden and then now Director of one of the most difficult department to manage. I believe she has been successful in her profession thus far because I have found her to be a trustworthy and fair individual which are qualities that a leader most possess to be able confront the challenges of our fast changing work environment.

Ms. Maseaka-Hirata recently demonstrated these attributes and skills by being able to get three government agencies to resolve a very controversial issue by working collaboratively to reach a resolution that all the administrators and their staff were willing to accept in their daily operations. She had the temperament and the tenacity to continue the discussion rather than leaving the bargaining table with disgruntle adversaries.

Our Interim Director has fresh new ideas and is eager to implement them and if she can assemble the "right team", I believe she will be able to lead this dysfunctional department, as some people have referred to as being, to the next level. I, therefore, support her candidacy to be the next Director for Public Safety.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Wendell Murakawa  
3222 Martha Street  
Honolulu, HI 96815

February 4, 2011

Senator Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
RE: Governor's Message #513 in support of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's  
confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety

Dear Senator Espero,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of confirming Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I have known Jodie for over 35 years both personally as well as professionally, and have found Jodie to be hard working, fair, and having the best interest of the people of Hawaii foremost in her decision making.

Foundationally, Jodie has had an extensive background in social work and criminal justice administration. These backgrounds have helped to strengthen her administration skills particularly in the area of public safety with the additional knowledge of the humanistic side also needed in this position.

Jodie also comes with a wealth of experience working for the State of Hawaii since 1989. She has worked for the Department of Human Services, the Department of Education, at the Halawa Correctional Facility, as well as at all the correctional facilities on Oahu. Most recently she has gained tremendous experience and knowledge as the Acting Warden of the Waiawa Correctional Facility.

It is apparent why she has been appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie for this vital position. She possesses both the knowledge and experience required to carry out all the duties and responsibilities this position holds and will continue to serve the people of Hawaii well. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of Public Safety.

Respectfully Yours,

Doreen K. Hosaka-Lum, MSW  
Social Worker/Care Coordinator  
Department of Health

Walter Zaharevitz  
94-1064 Lumihoahu St.  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

January 31, 2011

RE: Governor's Message #513, Hrg. 2/17/2011 at 2:45 p.m.  
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata Appointment as PSD Director

TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs  
Sen. Will Espero  
Sen. Michelle Kidani  
Sen. Shan Tsutsui

I am the Business Services Supervisor at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) and have worked all but three of my twenty-five years of State service with corrections. In my current capacity I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for just less than three years, during her appointment as acting warden of WCF.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata received very little training in my area of the budgeting and fiscal management of facility operations prior to her appointment. I did however; see her grow into the position as she learned on the job. She displayed intelligence and an inquisitive nature. If something wasn't clear, she asked questions. If a procedure was cumbersome, she questioned its propriety and sought new ways to accomplish the task more efficiently. She learned quickly and had few difficult problems in establishing her leadership role at WCF.

I also benefited from her vast knowledge of the department. Waiawa recently initiated a work furlough program to fulfill a legislative mandate. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata brought her years of experience from running the Laumaka furlough program at OCCC to guide her staff in developing procedures to institute the program at WCF. Because she has worked with many people in PSD, she knows who to call to get any job done, and her co-workers respond to her when called upon. Her knowing how to maneuver through the bureaucracy assisted many staff members at WCF. She has the ability to lead the department's staff and those who have worked with her know this.

Seeing how Ms. Maesaka-Hirata developed her decision-making ability while at WCF makes me confident that she will make a successful transition to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety. I am also confident that she will look at the problems facing this department in new ways, which will benefit all the citizens of Hawaii.

Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is a very good choice for director. Her experience, knowledge, relationships, ability and leadership will be great assets for all the employees in the department. I ask that you vote to confirm her appointment so that she can begin fulfilling the job that the Governor has entrusted to her.

---

**From:** Scott.O.Harrington@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:43 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for PSD Director GM 513

TO: Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: GM 513, Thursday, February 17, 2011, 1445 hours, Conference Room 224  
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata Appointment as PSD Director

I have been employed with the State as an Adult Corrections Officer since 1987. Currently, I am the Acting Warden at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF). I worked under Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for two years as the Chief of Security of WCF. Prior to this I was a Watch Commander who supervised the evening shifts. The three years that Jodie Maesaka-Hirata worked as the Acting Warden at WCF have been the best three years I have experienced in my career.

Shortly after her employment at WCF I observed that she would often make appearances on the evening Watch. She would be present for meetings with Security Staff, participate in Shakedown, participate in De-Briefings or do checks on Work Furlough or Job Seeking inmates. These are actions that I have never observed by any Warden or Administrator in my career. Often, when I was the Watch Commander she would ask my opinion on matters, causing me, to my eventual enjoyment, to become more educated and wise to my own business. Throughout those three years I observed many of WCF's staff becoming happier and better educated while carrying out their assigned duties.

Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is an individual who inspired and still inspires many of our people in Corrections to become better Correctional Officers, better Social Workers, better Operations Supervisors and becoming assets to the facility they work at. I have never met any individual in my career that has placed great emphasis on grooming subordinate staff. I have only witnessed through the years individuals that hold all the power and knowledge and are not interested in teaching or grooming anyone. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is a great teacher, organizer and leader who is caring and compassionate, but in no way a push over.

I feel that Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's leadership and organizing skills are exactly the right fit and need for the Department of Public Safety. I am confident that Jodie Maesaka-Hirata will perform the duties of the Director of Public Safety with great satisfaction to you and the citizens of Hawaii. I ask you to vote to confirm Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of Public Safety.

Scott Harrington  
Acting Warden  
Department of Public Safety  
Waiawa Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 1839 Pearl City, HI  
96782

Phone: 808.677.6128  
Fax: 808.677.6155



The Honorable Will Espero  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 09, 2011

RE: Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Director of Public Safety  
Confirmation Hearing

Dear Chairman Espero and Members of the Committee:

I am a Department of Public Safety retiree who supports the nomination of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to be the Director of Public Safety.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has been with the department for many years and has working experience with our incarcerated population of both genders. She has gained much experience working in various capacities at the Women's Community Correctional Center, the Halawa Correctional Facility, the Oahu Community Correctional Center and the Waiawa Correctional Facility. She has also worked on the Division level as the Acting Volunteer Coordinator. She has demonstrated a "can do" attitude in all of her assignments, has introduced new programs to facilities and has provided genuine help to inmates in their effort to rehabilitate.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata comes from a family very much dedicated to helping our incarcerated population. In addition to her supportive husband, her father, Bobbie Maesaka, was a good Correctional Worker who retired as a Sergeant; her mother was an unselfish volunteer with the department for many years, and her hard working brother is currently with the department's Correctional Worker force. Public service work, therefore, is not foreign to Ms. Maesaka-Hirata.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is a team player and can lead by example. The current Deputy Directors compliment Ms. Maesaka-Hirata and together, they can comprise a team that will meet the stringent demands for the years to come and the public's expectation for a safer statewide community by meeting the department's goals and objectives.

I support the nomination of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the position of Director, Department of Public Safety and ask that she receive your confirmation for the position.

Thank you for allowing me to present this letter of support for Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata.

Sincerely,



Edwin T. Shimoda

**Judy Yamada**

2711 Manoa Rd., Honolulu HI 96822  
Phone: 744-0050 • e-mail: judyqy@gmail.com

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Rm. 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

I would like to express my support for Interim Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's appointment as the Director for the Department of Public Safety.

I am currently an employee at the Department of Public Safety, working in the IT section. I have been employed with the State of Hawaii for the last 20 years and have worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata.

I sincerely believe Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's background and vision will strongly lift this department and make a difference. She is a dedicated worker and with a strong leader my department will benefit. These are values that will truly lead the department, someone from within that knows the workings of Public Safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to support my department and I ask that you confirm Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's nomination as Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Respectfully,



Judy Yamada

GM 513 Feb 17, 2011 2:45 p.m. CR224

**Isaac U. Sagario**  
**Training & Staff Development Administrator**

State Department of Public Safety  
2827 Waimano Home Road  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782  
Phone: 453-6084

In Support for Consideration and Confirmation to the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

---

Good afternoon, Senator Espero, Senator Kidani, and members of the committee.

My name is Isaac Sagario, Training and Staff Development Administrator for the Department of Public Safety.

I am in full support of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's appointment as the next Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I firmly believe that she has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the standards and quality of training initiatives for the department. Her collaborative leadership style fosters a definite sense of purpose and dignity among all levels of departmental personnel.

According to the Department of Human Resources Development Training Policy (No. 400.001 ERD/Training) it states: ***"As an employer, the Hawaii State government believes its greatest assets are its employees. Providing training to employees ensures that government services to Hawaii citizens are of the highest quality."***

With an accumulated total of over 35 years experience as a former educator, training specialist, and currently serving as a training administrator, I can confidently confirm that Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is a prime example of one who demonstrates the art of true leadership by exemplifying the six (6) Basic Principles of Leadership. These principles are:

A leader...

1. Who focus on the situation, issue, or behavior, not on the person;
2. Maintain the self-confidence and self-esteem of others;
3. Maintain constructive relationships;
4. Take initiative to make things better;
5. Lead by example; and
6. Think beyond the moment.

Without reservation, I sincerely endorse Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director for the Department of Public Safety. Thank you.

January 10, 2011

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TO: Senator Will Espero, Chair Senate Committee on Public Safety  
Machelle Kidami, Vice Chair senate Committee on Public Safety

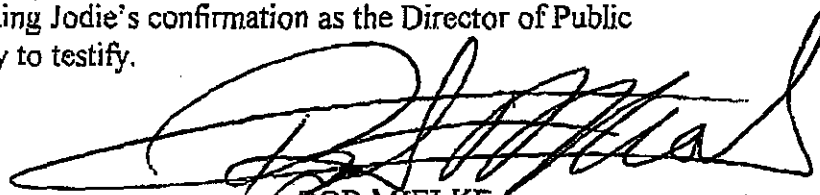
FROM: Sergeant Bob Mielke, Halawa Correctional Facility *RAM*

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata

My name is Bob Mielke. I am a sergeant at the Halawa Correctional Facility where I have been employed for the past 29 years. Eight of my 29 years were spent working side by side on a daily basis with Jodie Maesaka-Hirata. She was a social worker/case manager. I was the sergeant of the mental health module. As a social worker/case manager, she displayed traits of loyalty, professionalism, knowledge, and above all, she displayed a great deal of cooperation and fairness when it came to dealing with her coworkers and inmates. She also became the Warden of the Waiawa Correctional Facility. As the Warden of Waiawa, she was able to lead the facility in a direction that no other warden was able to do. As Director of Public Safety, I feel she will lead the Department in a very positive direction. Her attitude has always been, "those who work for her either make her or break her". This is an attitude that has enabled many great leaders to excel. I am sure it will enable her to excel and lead the Department to new heights.

I strongly urge your support regarding Jodie's confirmation as the Director of Public Safety. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

BOB MIELKE  
2857 Waiālae Ave. #301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
Contact Numbers Home (808) 732-2107  
Work (808) 485-5260  
(808) 485-5258



BOB MIELKE  
Sergeant, HCF

From: elena chancheck [mailto:u\_beta\_noyoro@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:39 AM  
To: Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Michelle Kidani  
Subject: Confirmation Support

To Mr. Espero, Mr. Tsutsui & Mrs. Kidani:

My name is Elena Chancheck and I am an Adult Correction's Officer at the Women's Community Correctional Center. I have worked for the Department of Public Safety from April 21, 1997 to present. I am writing to you all this morning to ask that you please support Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's confirmation as the Director of Public Safety. I have had the opportunity to work under Jodie as the Temporarily assigned Records Clerk from February of 2000 to September of 2001, when she was the Acting Offender Services Administrator at the Women's Community Correctional Center. I have also worked as an Adult Corrections Officer IV under Jodie while she was the Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Center for ten month from July 2008 to April 2009.

I believe Jodie will bring the necessary changes that our department is lacking and a different perspective on how to deal with different situations. Please support her confirmation! Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 306-2017.

Have a blessed day!  
Elena Chancheck

**From:** Maria Tom [mailto:mt\_391@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 10:54 AM

**To:** Sen. Will Espero

**Subject:** PSD Director

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in regards to the newly appointed PSD Director Jodi Maesaka supporting her at this time. I have been a Correctional Officer for over 13yrs, and during this time I have personally worked with Jodi when she was the Administrator of Laumaka Work Furlough Center at OCCC. I feel that she would be a benifit to the department because she is experienced in many different facettes of the running of PSD even though her expertise is with corrections, because she is able to work so well with not only inmates, officers, civilian workers but also the different heads within the department. I'm putting my faith in her abilities, proffessional and otherwise to get our department on the right track n turn things around for all in Public Safety. There are many Correctional Officers who feel that the past adminstrators were not listening to our concerns and issues that have plagued the running of the facilities-each facility has its own unique problems if at any time you would like to get a line point view please let me no and I will be happy to gather a group together to meet with you.

Sincerely,  
ACO Maria Tom  
OCCC  
227-7712

February 16, 2011

TO: SENATE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OFFICE

Fax 586-6659

RE: GM 513

SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

Thursday, February 17, 2011 @ 2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 224

State Capitol

My name is Lois Torikawa, and I am employed as a Social Worker IV at the Waiawa Correctional Facility. I have been an employee of the Department of Public Safety in various positions and worksites for a total of 26 years. This is testimony in favor of Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's appointment as the Director of Public Safety. Although I truly wanted to be present at this hearing, my workload does not permit me the time to do so.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata was our Acting Warden from 2008 to 2010, for a total of nearly 3 years. During that time, I have observed her to be a fearless, action-oriented, innovative leader who was not afraid to make decisions for the betterment and security of this facility and the department. She did not make decisions to please people or entities, and did not demonstrate favoritism. She weathered the resulting responses with that strong personal foundation she has. Given these lean times in government funding, she was able to bring volunteer organizations together to accomplish goals she had for Waiawa and the department. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata did not accept the status quo for the staff or the inmates, and pushed us to get out of our "comfort zone" to better our work and our selves.

Of course as human beings, none of us are perfect. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata did not react to those few times by becoming entrenched in solely defending herself or pointing the finger at others. She would use those times as learning experiences in order to better herself as a leader and a person.

I believe that she will be the Director who will move, improve, and shake our department to perform to its best potential.

Sincerely,



Lois Torikawa, LSW  
Offender Services Section  
677-6153

**From:** Lois Uperesa [mailto:tluperesa@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:08 AM  
**To:** Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Michelle Kidani  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Jodie Maesaka

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this email to support Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's confirmation as the Director of Public Safety. I am an Adult Corrections Officer IV at the Women's Community Center and I have had the opportunity to work with her when she was the Acting Offender Services Administrator here. It is my hope that she will be the necessary person to make the changes so needed in our department.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, you may reach me at 266-9650.

Sincerely,

Tuufuli Uperesa  
ACO IV



**Natalie Wagatsuma**

95-1034 Hakala Street • Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
Phone: 626-7058 • Mobile: 223-7446 • E-Mail: nakeliw@gmail.com

February 12, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Rm. 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

I would like to express my full support for Interim Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's appointment as the Director for the Department of Public Safety.

I am presently a Secretary for the Deputy Director for Administration of the Department of Public Safety. I have been employed with the State of Hawaii for the last 26 years and known and worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata for 22 years.

I truly believe Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's knowledge and experience as a Social Worker/Case Manager and Acting Warden makes her well qualified to lead the Department as the Director. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is a strong team player and has motivated and encouraged all of us to work together for the greater benefit of the Department. Her dedication and compassion makes her a valued asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and humbly ask that you confirm Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's nomination as Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natalie Wagatsuma



1801 East Cotati Avenue  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY  
& CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES

707.664.2934 • Fax 707.664.3920  
www.sonoma.edu/ccjs

January 22, 2011

Senator Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
415 S. Beretania  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the State Department of Public Safety (DPS). I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata since 1999 when I worked as a consultant to DPS in the development of gender-responsive training, classification, and programs for women offenders at the Women's Community Correctional Center. During this time, I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata and I found her to be a solid administrator and creator of evidence-based re-entry programs. Her 18 years of experience in corrections, coupled with her social work background and education, provide her with the knowledge and skills that are needed to be an effective leader.

I strongly encourage senate confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information. I can be reached at: 707-664-3928 or email: bloom@sonoma.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Bloom".

Barbara Bloom, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy  
Monterey Bay • Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San Jose • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   H A W A I I ' I   A T   M Ā N O A  
College of Social Sciences  
**Women's Studies Program**

February 14, 2011

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 17, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

Dear Senators Espero and Kidani,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to serve as head of the Department of Public Safety. While I have been a former Vice President of the American Society of Criminology, a former President of the Western Society of Criminology, and while I am currently a Professor of Women's Studies, I am writing today as an individual.

I have known Jodie since she worked as Volunteer Services Officer with the Department of Public Safety. In that capacity, she was extremely committed to bringing outsiders, including students into correctional facilities. Indeed, she organized a program for students in my Women and Crime class so that they could organize a program for a group of residents of the Women's Community Correctional Center. This took a lot of work on Jodie's part, but she was extremely helpful, enthusiastic, and supportive of the project.

Since that time, I've followed her very impressive rise within the ranks of the Department of Public Safety to her current position. Her diverse experiences within DPS, coupled with a direct experience as a warden of a male facility are a testimony to her abilities.

I am confident that Jodie will bring that sort of openness, professionalism, and innovation to a system that has been plagued by unit heads that have had relatively little experience in the field of corrections (often having been drawn from the ranks of law or policing).

I hope that Jodie will also follow through on the Governor's promise to bring back Hawaii's inmates from mainland facilities, and I would encourage any confirmation process to explore that issue thoroughly. Additionally, I hope that her tenure will be marked by a stronger commitment to best practices in

U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   H A W A I I ' I   A T   M Ā N O A  
College of Social Sciences  
**Women's Studies Program**

corrections, including population management practices that seek to govern population by judicious use of classification systems that seek to place inmates in the least restrictive settings possible. That commitment, coupled with a more robust re-entry program (so that Hawaii's extremely high parole failure rate can be reduced).

Again, Jodie has already worked in a number of different facilities and in a number of different positions within DPS. She also understands the field of corrections, and she has pursued professional certification in a number of key areas within the field.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Meda Chesney-Lind*

Meda Chesney-Lind  
Professor, Women's Studies

## Radcliffe & Associates, LLC

---

222 South Vineyard Street, Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813-2453 Phone (808) 524-4459 Fax (808) 599-4340

February 15, 2011

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224

**RE: GM513** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Public Safety, gubernatorial nominee, JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA, for a term to expire December 1, 2014.

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

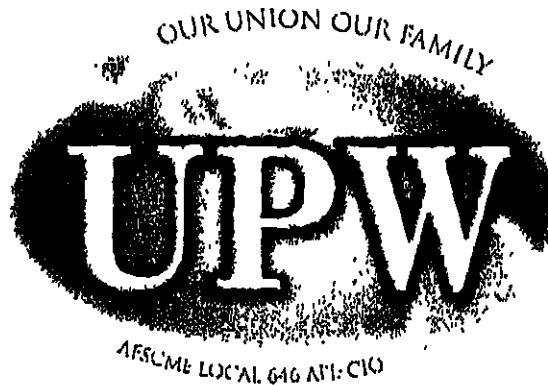
My name is John Radcliffe and I strongly recommend that you vote to confirm the nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

She is a twenty-three year veteran of the Department who has worked her way up from social worker to warden to Director and, if confirmed, will be the first woman to ever hold the position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Sincerely,

John H. Radcliffe



February 17, 2011

THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
The Honorable Michele Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: February 17, 2011  
TIME OF HEARING: 2:45 P.M.  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 224

**Favorable Testimony of Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director  
of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO  
in Support of GM 514,  
Relating to the Consideration and Confirmation of  
BRUCE A. COPPA as Comptroller of the  
Department of Accounting and General Services**

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW), AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW represents approximately 11,700 employees of the State of Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu, and the Counties of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai, all of which constitute approximately 8,800 blue-collar non-supervisory employees in bargaining unit 1 (as that unit is defined in IIRS, § 89-6 (a)) and approximately 2,900 institutional, health and correctional workers in bargaining unit 10 (as that unit is defined in IIRS, § 89-6 (a)). In addition, UPW represents many private industry employees who are either blue collar, institutional or health workers.

On behalf of the UPW and its approximately 11,700 members who are public employees, as well as its multitude of private sector employees, this testimony is in support of the appointment of Bruce A. Coppa as Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services ("DAGS").

I have known Mr. Coppa since he was the Executive Director of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), the joint union and management industry promotional entity which was created pursuant to an agreement between the organized Hawaii general building and construction contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters Union (Mr. Coppa was appointed to the Executive Director's position at PRP upon the suggestion of the Hawaii Carpenters Union).

It is my understanding that prior to being the PRP Executive Director, Mr. Coppa was a management official of the now dissolved general building construction contractor named E.F. Mack, Ltd., and that subsequent to his leaving the PRP Executive Director's position, he became a media consultant, and independent land developer of commercial properties, and a business consultant. Mr. Coppa was also the chairman of the Board of Directors of Hawaii 3R's, an entity spearheaded by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, which was created to bring outside financial and human resources to assist in diminishing the \$640 million public school repair backlog.

Throughout Mr. Coppa's distinguished career, I have known him to be highly intelligent and highly motivated to accomplish the task at hand. I have also known him to have a deep understanding of complex financial matters, and to be "people" person.

I am confident that Mr. Coppa possesses the skills and temperament to be a truly outstanding State Comptroller. Therefore, the UPW wholeheartedly supports his nomination to the position of State Comptroller, and requests that this committee give its advice in favor of Mr. Coppa's foregoing nomination, and consent to his appointment to the position of State Comptroller.

**S&B**  
**S&B Foods Hawaii, Inc.**

February 7, 2011

Senator Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 231  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Email: [senespero@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senespero@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senator,

It is an honor to and an extreme benefit to our state to have Mrs. Jodie Maesaka Hirata as our new Public Safety Director.

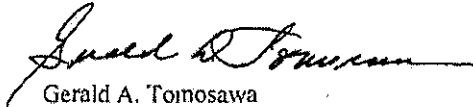
I have known Jodie for a few years and have experienced her to be a very honest, confident, competent, and compassionate person. I have participated in her Christmas Concerts at Waiawa Correctional and noticed how her staff as well as the inmates respected her as the warden. As we had opportunities to sit with the inmates to share about their lives, they kept saying that it was because of Warden Jodie that they have light at the end of their tunnels. Also, because of this care and commitment to help her inmates, she has improved the facility by showing outsiders how much she cares and how limited her options were, but she got it done.

Personally, I am sure you are aware that she is an 84' Grad from PCJHS and her Masters in Criminal Justice Administration from Chaminade University. She is married with one son, Guyson, he is a ball of energy but is a super affectionate child, which is a reflection of his parents.

With her leadership, experience, and commitment, she is no doubt the right person to fill the job that Governor Abercrombie addressed in his Message #513.

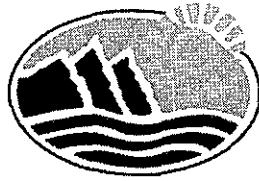
Please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,



Gerald A. Tomosawa  
E.V.P./ Director/ General Manager  
S&B Foods Hawaii, Inc.





# HINA MAUKA

**Subject:** *GM513 Relating to the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety*

**To:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS; Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 17<sup>h</sup>, 2011 at 2:45 pm in Room 224

Good morning Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Distinguished Committee members: My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit treatment and prevention agency serving Hawaii residents statewide.

## **Hina Mauka supports the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.**

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is supportive of creating new systems for reentry and evidenced based practices that will help the Department of Public Safety to evolve with better effectiveness while reducing costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today and are available for questions, if needed.



women in need  
SERVING HAWAII SINCE 1996

Post Office Box 414 | Waimanalo, HI 96795-0414 | phone: 808.258.5706 | fax: 808.259.6679 | [www.win-hawaii.org](http://www.win-hawaii.org)

January 25, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Re: Jodie Maesaka-Hirata  
STRONG PUPPORT

Aloha Chair Espero,

My name is Mary Scott-Lau, I am the Executive Director for Women In Need(WIN) WIN is in strong support of Jodie Maesaka- Hirata as Director of Public Safety. She has demonstrated her dedication to working with our incarcerated brothers and sisters to reduce recidivism and become productive members of our society.

Ms. Maesaka -Hirata is pro gender specific programming, strong community ties and support, and will bring a fresh and effective insight for our population that gets pushed away and forgotten.

Women In Need urges the committee's support on the appointing of Jodie Maesaka- Hirata as Director of Public Safety.

Thank-you for this opportunity to testify.

—Original Message—

From: Donna Kessler [mailto:my3kidz@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:27 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Shan Tsutsui

Subject: JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

Aloha. My name is Donna Kessler and I am submitting this letter of support for Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Interim Director for the Department of Public Safety (PSD). I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata for over 10 years and worked as her Secretary for two. In order to keep this letter short and sweet, there is one word that comes to mind when reflecting upon Ms. Maesaka-Hirata, and the word is INTEGRITY. You can be rest assured that her integrity has always been in tact and that she is a loyal employee of the State of Hawaii. Confirmation as the Director for PSD will undoubtedly be the right choice to make. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata will commit 100%+ of herself to her job and to the mission of PSD.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my e-mail supporting the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Mahalo,

Donna Kessler

**Ruth Hashisaka Fukuyama**

**95-1134 Ahokele Street**

**Mililani, Hawaii 96789**

February 1, 2011

**Testimony of Ruth Hashisaka Fukuyama  
Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety  
Governor's Message No. 513**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Director of Public Safety**

**Gubernatorial Nominee: Ms Jodie Maesaka Hirata**

Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth Hashisaka Fukuyama. I am a business person from Mililani.

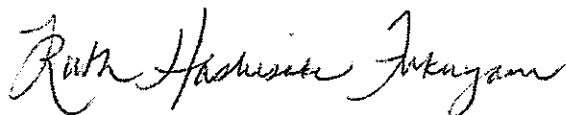
I am in strong support for the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka Hirata as Director of Public Safety.

Jodie has the ability to work with people and help make changes that are necessary to keep our community safe. She is a person with strong integrity, focus and leadership skills to help get the job done. Jodie is very much in tune with all of the issues that face this department. She is very proactive in dealing with the concerns that come up.

I ask that you confirm Ms Hirata to serve as Director of Public Safety.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Hashisaka Fukuyama". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ruth Hashisaka Fukuyama

---

The Honorable Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 26, 2011

Dear Senator Espero:

I support Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the position as Director of Public Safety. Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is fully qualified to operate the state's public safety department

I have worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata while she held the position as the Corrections Program Manager for volunteers and religion services, and witnessed the creative programs that she developed for inmates and their families, such as Kid's Day at the Women's Correctional Center (WCCC). In addition, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata was also instrumental implementing the fathers' Read-to-Me program for inmates housed at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF).

Later Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata held positions as Administrator for the Laumaka Work Furlough Program located at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and Acting Warden at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF), in which she was creative with re-entry programs for inmates, collaborating with industries and the community. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata diligently implemented meaningful work and technical training in hydroponic farming, culinary arts, masonry and other vocational trades so that inmates would gain on-the-job experience upon their release.

I have known Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata over fifteen years and know that she has the academic background and empirical knowledge in criminal justice and Hawaii's penal system, and a visionary to manage an innovative public safety department for the state.

I hope you and your committee support the gubernatorial nominee Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to be the first woman as the Director of Public Safety for this twenty-first century. Mahalo.

Sincerely,



Nathalie Kodama

Private Citizen

Luz E. Gonzalez-Mills  
1615 Wilder Avenue Apt. 706  
Honolulu, Hi. 96822  
(808) 942-3086

January 25, 2011

Honorable Will Espero  
State Capitol  
Room 207  
Honolulu, HI. 96813

Dear Honorable Mr. Espero:

This letter is written to you in support of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the upcoming Department of Public Safety, Director's position. I have known Mrs. Maesaka Hirata for no less than 14 years, both professionally as well as personally. In retrospect, I can honestly say that she is a very trustworthy individual with both professional ethics and personal integrity towards her constituents and subordinates.

As for experience, Mrs. Jody Maesaka-Hirata has extensive experience in Public Safety and Social Service fields. She has employed her skills and knowledge as a Volunteer Coordinator/Administrator upon her incept of employment at the Department. That's the period, when I met Jody and discovered her exemplary humanistic qualities in interacting with all types of individuals, whether subordinates, volunteers or non related individuals. She also denotes plenty of enthusiasm in her deeds and has the qualities of involving others.

From Volunteer Corps, Jodie continued to strive towards enhancing her career and education. She became Manager for the Laumaka Work Furlough Program at the OCCC facility. She later took the Position of Acting Warden at the WCF Facility January 28, 2008 and more recently was promoted to Warden at WCF. I therefore, urge you to confirm Mrs. Maesaka Hirata as the Director of Public Safety for the State of Hawaii.

Most sincerely, I thank you for your time and remain hopeful that you will support Jody for the position.

Truly yours,



Luz Gonzalez-Mills

Billy Mills  
1615 Wilder Avenue Apt. 706  
Honolulu, HI. 96822  
(808) 942-3086

January 25, 2011

Honorable Will Espero  
State Capitol  
Room 207  
Honolulu, HI. 96813

Dear Honorable Senator Espero:

This letter is written to you in support of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the upcoming Department of Public Safety, Director's position. While employed at the Public Safety, as the Statewide Substance Abuse Officer, I had the opportunity to work with Jodie and immediately saw that she has the ability and drive to make a difference with people, as well as the inmate population. During that time (1994), to the present, Jodie has not changed in her beliefs that people that are incarcerated can make a life style change and become productive citizens within our society. I believe that Jodie, with the proper support and commitment of those within the Department of Public Safety will excel as Director. Jodie brings to the position, managerial; administrative and peoples skills, as well as being a team player.

I humbly request that Jodie be given the opportunity to become the next Director of Public Safety.

Sincerely,



Billy Mills

January 28, 2011

Senator Will Espero  
Senator Michelle Kidani  
Senator Stan Tsutsui  
Senator Jill Tokuda

Re: Governor's Message #513  
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, for  
Director of Public Safety

Dear Senators:

It's a tough job that Jodie Maesaka-Hirata has signed up for. It's a job that is "you're damned if you do and damned if you don't". Jodie knows all of that and has the courage and temerity to get the job done. She has already heeded the wishes of the Governor by bringing back some inmates from mainland prisons.

I know Jodie from my years in the Public Safety Department. She was in the Corrections Division and I was in the Law Enforcement Division.

As you might be aware, Jodie has her Master's in Criminal Justice Administration from Chaminade University. Her credentials are impeccable. She more than understands the magnitude of the work ahead.

Jodie has a great enthusiastic personality; however, do not let that fool you. She can be tough as nails but firm and kind to her employees. Jodie will always listen to both sides. She will work very well with agencies who have interests in corrections and law enforcement.

As a former U.S. Marshal and state legislator I feel privileged to observe women in Jodie's generation taking on the tough jobs which were considered non-traditional in my generation.

I ask that you support Jodie's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you very much.

Faith P. Evans



**From:** darrin mekaru [mailto:oahuimages@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 2:33 PM  
**To:** Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Shan Tsutsui  
**Cc:** joyguyjoguy@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** letter of support - Governor's Message #513

Dear Senators,

I am a friend writing on behalf of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata in support of her becoming the next Director of Public Safety. She is very qualified holding a bachelors in Social Work from UH Manoa and a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Chaminade University. As you know, she has held positions with the State of Hawaii since 1989, started at Halawa Correctional Facility, worked for the Departments of Human Services and Education and returned to Public Safety in 1992 and has been there since. Also been a social worker and/or social work supervisor in all Correctional Facilities on Oahu, with her last assignment before accepting this position was as the Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility.

Thank You,

--

Darrin N. Mekarū  
Oahu Images  
Quality Screen Printing  
(808)255-6547

Beverly A. Joe-Yow  
94-166 Apele Place  
Mililani, HI 96789-2149  
808-778-6070 cell/[bevyow@yahoo.com](mailto:bevyow@yahoo.com) email

January 28, 2011

Senator Will Espero

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231

[senespero@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senespero@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CONFIRMATION - MS. JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

Dear Senator Espero:

I am an Information Technology Manager for Kaiser Permanente, Hawaii Region and have worked in healthcare systems for 30+ years.

I am a personal friend of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata and proud to write you this letter. Ms Maesaka-Hirata is the right person for Director of Department of Public Safety. She is a person with integrity, self driven, and people focused. I know her to be respectful, sincere, and honest. She thinks "out of the box" to get the job done.

My husband and I were introduced to Ms. Maesaka-Hirata and her husband, Guy through common friends. It was her quick wit and humor which struck a great friendship which has transcended for 8 years. Over the years, our friendship has endured life's challenges which Jodie and Guy were always there to support my husband and me. I consider Jodie to be one with heart, honor, and a straight shooter. She is one that stands behind her words and has continued to demonstrate it through her actions.

Over the years, I have observed her strong commitment as a daughter that is caring for her mother with health issues, a wife to a supportive husband, Guy, a mother to a loving 4 year old son named Guysen, and a highly respected and dedicated public servant in Corrections. I am impressed that she is from a family that served in Corrections.

I was most impressed when she shared with me how she was able to improve Waiawa Corrections Facility with limited funds and resources. Her approach was creative and using her people skills, she enabled multiple departments to work together to reach a successful outcome within budget and on time.

For many years, I managed implementations of multi-million dollar healthcare systems. I am responsible in managing projects on time and within budget and proud to say I have 100% success record. I say this because as a manager, I am required to identify the people with the "right stuff" and that can get the job done. I feel I am qualified to say without any doubt that Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the RIGHT STUFF and can get the job done.

I humbly ask you as our senator, to please confirm Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirtata as the new Director of Department of Public Safety. Hawaii is ready for change and Jodie is ready to make the change! I make myself available for any questions and further discussions. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I humbly ask for your confirmation. With Sincerity and Aloha,  
Ernest J Yow and Beverly A. Joe-Yow

—Original Message—

From: Marlene Hirata [mailto:marleneknrth@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:54 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Subject: Support of Confirmation

January 29, 2011

Waipahu, Hawaii

Senator Will Espero

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231

Dear Senator Espero,

> This is a letter of support for the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (Head of the State Prison System and Law Enforcement). We are Richard and Marlene Hirata, uncle and aunt of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata. We were very proud and supportive of her appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie to be on his cabinet. Jodie is very intelligent and warm hearted and would make an excellent Director of her appointed Department.

> We were very gratified when we read the comments by Governor Abercrombie's administration in The Star Honolulu Advertiser media release shortly after the announcement of the appointments were made. It stated that as Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility in August 2008, with the support of the surrounding community, Jodie launched an offender re-entry program that successfully reintegrated offenders by providing

> them job experience while they were still incarcerated. As an 18-year veteran of the State Dept. of Public Safety, we anticipate that she will have other effective programs to promote the inmates' future endeavors.

> We hope that you will support the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (Head of the State Prison System and Law Enforcement.) We thank you very much for your  
> consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard and Marlene Hirata

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Letter of Support for Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Governor's Message #513**

**Date: 1/29/11**

I have known Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the past 20 years as a friend.

I first met Jodie when she was working as a social worker in the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS) Foster Home Certification Unit. We were both DHS social workers, had graduated from the University of Hawaii in social work, and at the time were friends with my co-worker Guy Hirata, who later became her husband in 1993.

I would meet with Jodie on our work breaks or at office lunches and quickly found her to be extremely bright and quick-witted. Jodie's sense of humor kept me in stitches and our friendship grew strong over the years.

A couple of years after we met, Jodie moved to the Department of Education to work with children and their families. Since we were not working in the same workplace, we would meet for dinners and a movie, just the two of us, to catch up on our lives. No matter where Jodie worked, the way she spoke about what happened at work, what she was doing, I sensed a true commitment and passion in her especially when she started working for the Department of Public Safety.

Jodie had worked at the Halawa Correctional Facility and the Women's Community Correctional Facility. The fact that she wanted to work in the prison system, to me, set her apart as someone who took risks and was very strong. I would shake my head in amazement when she told me that she moved to the Oahu Community Correctional Center, and was in awe when she moved to the position of Acting Warden at the Waiawa Correctional Facility. When I think of a "warden", I picture the Hollywood stereotyped 6'5" tall man who is gruff and tough. I had to laugh though as Jodie can be tough when she has to be and it's probably why she got the job and was so good at it. Don't let her soft voice fool you as she has definite opinions about the world.

While working, Jodie obtained her Master's of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from the Chaminade University, another head shaker accomplishment. Jodie's father passed away in 1989 but I know she maintains a strong spiritual connection to him. She is extremely close to her family, especially to her mother and brother, as well as her husband's parents and family. When it comes to family, Jodie is the crux of everything, the glue that holds everyone together, the ultimate caregiver to those who had major health problems. In 2006, family and friends were thrilled when Jodie and her husband Guy, became parents to their son, Guysen, a major event that would enrich and change their lives forever. When it comes to friends, Jodie is extremely loyal and no matter how busy she is, she is always there for you, always has time to meet and talk stories. It's so funny that whenever we get together, no matter where we are and who we're with, there would invariably be someone she knew that she would say hi to and kiss on the cheek. Jodie is Miss Aloha – friendly and open-minded.

Some may be shocked that Jodie was nominated to be the Director of Public Safety. For one, if she is confirmed, she would be Hawaii's first female Director of Public Safety. Second, she is young and some may say she doesn't have the years of experience. I think it's not how long you've been at work but what you do while you're at work and how you do it that makes the difference. I know that Jodie has made significant changes and improvements in the programs wherever she has worked and has done it in innovative and cost effective ways.

Clearly, Jodie's work and family history speak for itself. She is a very loyal person with a great deal of integrity who I am proud to call a friend. I therefore, have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as a trustworthy person who can be counted on regardless of the enterprise.

If Governor Abercrombie and the people of Hawaii are looking for a person to provide leadership, long-term vision and commitment to improving Hawaii's Public Safety Department, Jodie is that person for the job.

If you have any questions or need additional information about my knowledge of Jodie, please feel free to contact me at [katoch@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:katoch@hawaii.rr.com).

Sincerely,

Kathy Ochikubo

**Cedric L. Roldan**  
91-1094 Kaileolea Drive  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
(808) 372-4732

February 14, 2011

**CONFIRMATION LETTER OF SUPPORT GM#513**

Re: Jodie Maesaka-Hirata

Dear Senators,

I have known Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to be a hard worker, dedicated and a straight-forward person. In our past discussions Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has demonstrated her desire and passion to serve as the Public Safety Director. She has the ability to work outside of the box when accomplishing difficult task. She has a vision for the future of PSD and the determination to see them come to. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata brings openness, honesty when dealing with others.

In closing, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata display a sense determination in meeting the challenges ahead of her, she brings hope in these times of financial difficulties as well as change.

Erin Welsh  
73-1142 Oluolu Street  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
(808) 325-5322

February 14, 2011

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

VIA: email

**Support GM 513**

*Good Morning Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committee Members:*

I strongly support the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. I believe she is the right person for the job.

Sincerely,

Erin Welsh

February 11, 2011

To Senator Will Espero and Public Safety Committee,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata. I've known Jody since Intermediate school and all thru high school. She has always been a class act and I knew she was on the path to success at a young age. During our teenage years, she was a leader and never succumbed to peer pressure and bad influences. Most importantly, I respect her honesty and integrity or I would not be writing this letter.

I feel she is the perfect person for this position as she is not afraid to make tough decisions. She has the ability to be firm yet fair, and will do the best for our community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [bkawano@aol.com](mailto:bkawano@aol.com)

Thank You for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Kawano

*Amateur Boxing of Hawaii President (over 550 members).*

*USA-Boxing Coaches/International Task Force Committee.*

*Hawaii State Boxing Commissioner.*

*Ringside Board of Advisors.*

*AIBA (196 countries) Athlete and Youth Commissioner.*

*Northern Michigan University (US Olympic Education Center) Task Force Member.*

*Head Coach Kawano Boxing Club*

*General Manager Rock Bottom Sports Bar and Grill.*

*Manager Red Lions Waikiki in the Hyatt Regency Waikiki.*



---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 9:25 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** jenitano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jennifer Dacumos  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jenitano@gmail.com](mailto:jenitano@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

**Comments:**

I am pleased to write in support of the appointment of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety for the State of Hawaii. Jodie is my second cousin and I have known her since I was born. Jodie is the type of person every family needs; in many ways, she is the glue that holds us all together. We come from a large family as Jodie's mother and my grandfather have four other sisters. In such a large family and with some living outside of O'ahu, we depend on Jodie to keep us updated on the happenings of other family members; this is not a role that was necessarily put on her, but one that she stepped into. Jodie is also the first to initiate and organize family gatherings and is always checking in on the well-being of others. She is a compassionate, proactive, loyal, hard-working and down-to-earth person with her priorities in the right place. Jodie's actions show that she is strongly committed to God, family, friends, and her community.

Jodie holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Hawaii and Master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Chaminade University. She has worked for the State of Hawaii since 1989 and has been a social worker and/or social work supervisor in all correctional facilities on Oahu. She most recently was the Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility. Jodie's education combined with her vast experience working in the state system for over twenty years makes her the perfect candidate for Director of the Department of Public Safety for the State of Hawaii. If confirmed, I have no doubt that Jodie will excel in this position and continue to diligently serve the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and attention.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 8:48 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** itanoj001@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: joanne itano  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [itanoj001@gmail.com](mailto:itanoj001@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7:18 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** maukalau@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Wendel Yoda  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [maukalau@yahoo.com](mailto:maukalau@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

**Comments:**

Jodie Maesaka-Hirata has been an important part of my growth as a social worker. She has taught me a lot about the functions of public safety. I have learned that Jodie has no problem letting people know what needs to be done. Jodie has always pushed people to reach their utmost potential. Jodie is always looking for ways to better the system or helping out other areas if needed. I believe Jodie Maesaka-Hirata will give it her all to make everybody in the Department of Public Safety more efficient at what they do in their sections.

Candace F. F. Tonokawa  
2863 A Booth Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 545-1268  
Email: [tonokawag001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:tonokawag001@hawaii.rr.com)

Dear Honorable Senator Wil Espero and Committee Members:

I have known Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for nearly twenty years. She is a relative, married to my cousin. I have had numerous personal and professional contacts with her throughout these years.

Through my personal experience, I have found that Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is compassionate and caring. She is able to listen to, relate to, and empower people from all walks of life through genuine interest and understanding. She takes personal time to connect and re-connect with people around her. Always positive and encouraging, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has helped many through the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is hardworking and a community contributor. Through her capacity as warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility, she was instrumental in helping my school, Waipahu Intermediate School, receive the necessary manpower to clear a large acreage of our campus two years ago. Her interest in providing inmates with a positive experience in which they could contribute to the community-at-large provided a win-win situation for both the self-esteem and work experience of the inmates who gained from the program as well as the members of our school community who have benefited from the campus clean-up.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is dedicated and advocates for bettering the lives of all. While at Waiawa, she developed a partnership with Transformation Hawaii to empower the inmates within the facility. Through this partnership, monies and resources were secured to provide inmates with the opportunity to renovate an unusable space. The product of their work not only added to facility space, but also provided the support and encouragement that instilled hope, a belief in themselves, and pride in the inmates. Her work served as an inspiration for others who aspire to transform people's lives and she was invited to attend an international conference to share her experiences.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is passionate and committed to improving the Department of Public Safety as well as the lives of inmates and their families after incarceration. In every position she has held, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has contributed to positive changes in the organization as an advocate of re-entry programs. While working in the Women's Correctional Facility, she worked with women inmates to develop life skills and access to community resources to deter recidivism. Through her work at Oahu Community Correctional Facility and Laumaka, she sought public understanding for retraining and inclusion of convicted inmates for acceptance into the community.

I think that Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has demonstrated the leadership skills necessary to lead the Department of Public Safety into the twenty-first century as well as the commitment and values that represent our citizenship. She has the ability to work with people, develop partnerships with the community, create positive programs for her organization, and increase the understanding of the public. For these reasons, I firmly believe that Ms. Maesaka-Hirata would be an excellent candidate for Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Sincerely,

Candace F. F. Tonokawa

---

**From:** Mary K. Dias [diasohana1@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:38 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** Support Confirmation

Mary Kehaulani Dias  
99-118 Kohomua St. #101  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
(808) 485-0828

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Thursday, February 17, 2011  
2:45 p.m.  
Room 224  
SUPPORT

**GM 513** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA, for a term to expire December 1, 2014.

On behalf of my ohana, I ask that you support the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

We believe that Ms. Maesaka –Hirata will bring the state prison system out of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with a fair system that relies on data and evidence-based practices. Faced with limited finances, we have faith in Ms. Maesaka –Hirata’s creativity in developing and implementing the much needed reentry and rehabilitation programs that Hawaii’s prisons lack.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Dias  
Kekoa A.K. Dias  
Keoki A.K. Dias  
Margaret Dias Pilago  
Regina Dias Tauala  
Earl Peahi Jr.  
Lela M. Hubbard

**Lisa M. Echevary**  
344C Kawainui Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
Phone: 261-4247 Mobile: 554-5666  
Email: lechevary@gmail.com

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operation, and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Rm. 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

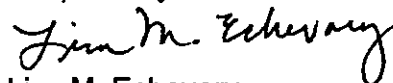
I support the appointment of Interim Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director for the Department of Public Safety.

My current position is the Secretary to the Deputy Director of Corrections for the Department of Public Safety. I am a 30+ year civil servant and have know and worked with and for Ms. Maesaka-Hirata during her 20+ years.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has worn may hats during her career. She has been an Acting Warden, Section Administrator and a case manager. Her work experience, leadership qualities, dedication and passion makes her highly qualified to lead the Department of Public Safety as our Director.

Thank you for the opportunity of testifying and strongly encourage you to confirm Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Respectfully,



Lisa M. Echevary

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's confirmation for the Director of Public Safety. I have had the pleasure of knowing Jodie for 20 years as a friend and colleague. She is a loving wife, daughter, mother, and sister and I admire her ability to balance her responsibilities in her employment and a home life. As a friend, Jodie is loyal, generous, loving, and dependable. She is the friend that I call in difficult as well as celebratory times and I can always count on her support. Professionally, I have had the pleasure of seeing her grow in her career as a Social Worker with the Department of Human Services to an Administrator with the Public Safety Department. She is able to resolve difficult situations by calmly listening to all sides and analyzing situations before making a decision. Jodie is an asset to the Department and she is capable, competent, and driven to head the Department. Thank you.

Suzette Serikaku

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:52 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** mel@taniokas.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mel Tanioka  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [mel@taniokas.com](mailto:mel@taniokas.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

Comments:



---

**From:** Emy Furusaki [maukalani78@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:55 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 513

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS and MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Room 224

2:45 p.m.

GM 513 - Consideration/Confirmation, Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Dir of PSD

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members

I personally do not know Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, but have been reading her comments/vision for the Department of Public Safety.

After years of status quo and not considering the Pew reports or any other report on how we can improve our thinking on how to more efficiently and caringly run our prisons, she will bring about change which will benefit our state and its people, I believe.

I appreciate her taking on such a challenge and that in collaboration with the Legislature our state will become a leader and model for other state's to follow, like our HOPE program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my support for Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's confirmation.

With warm regards,

E. Funakoshi

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:20 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** SapphoDD40@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carmael Kamealoha Stagner  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [SapphoDD40@aol.com](mailto:SapphoDD40@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

Comments:  
Thank You!

**National Association of Reformed Criminals  
Andy Botts & Franklin Jackson  
1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815  
February 17, 2011**

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday February 17, 2011

2:45 PM

Room 224

GM 513

**SUPPORT – APPOINTMENT OF JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA**

Narc is focused on, but not limited to, the reformation of ex-offenders, and our staff is made up entirely of volunteers who have extensive experience with the justice system, drug abuse and dependency, and the struggles that individuals face when released back into society. Additionally, we have had personal interaction with Hawaii's DPS for over 3 decades.

Our mission is to keep ex-offenders out of jail, not get them out, and the best way is through gradual reintegration programs such as half-way houses etc. However, this area has been neglected for decades, although non-prison programs were the Legislature's intent when it financed the construction of OCCC in 1972.

We don't know her personally, but our support for Jodie is based on her track record for supporting such programs that are sorely needed.

.Mahalo

Andy Botts & Franklin Jackson

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 513  
RELATING TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE DIRECTOR FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

February 13, 2011

Dear Senators Will Espero (Chair), Michelle Kidani (Vice Chair), Rosalyn H. Baker, Pohai Ryan, and Sam Slom:

**RE: SUPPORTING GM 513 CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MS. JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA**

I, Shelley Nobriga, through written testimony support the confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata for about 25 years in a personal capacity and in a professional capacity. Our friendship began as students at the University of Hawaii, in the School of Social Work's Bachelors degree program. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata was always a dedicated student. She would volunteer at various community outreach programs that primarily dealt with servicing children and teenagers. I believe her philosophy at that time was the key to ensuring "our future" is to help the children in less fortunate environments to be positive citizens.

Our interests after graduating from college were different, but our paths crossed again, when she was hired as a Social Worker at Halawa Correctional Facility. I was her co-worker and her supervisor at the Halawa High Security Facility. She was a person, who took great pride in her duties and responsibilities as a Social Worker, who was assigned to manage maximum custody inmates. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata eventually sought other promotional opportunities within the department, but I have always observed her to be dedicated to helping inmates through the creation of self-esteem building programs as the department's Volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata was eventually promoted to a Correctional Supervisor II at Oahu Community Correctional Center, where she supervised the furlough program at Laumaka. I believe that based on her knowledge, skills, and abilities she was selected to be the Acting Warden at Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF).

While at WCF, she continued to established new programs to assist the inmates through the management of her subordinates. She is also contributed with raising the morale of uniform and non-uniform staff at WCF. In a time of fiscal challenges and budget cuts, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata sought out and networked with community groups to help improve the physical structures at WCF and to provide support services to the inmate population.

In summary, I support the confirmation of Ms. Maesaka-Hirata, because I believe that she will bring an ethical and professional programmatic approach to PSD that has been significantly lacking, while also ensuring that the law enforcement and corrections mission of the department is well-maintained.

Sincerely,

Shelley Nobriga

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON GM 513  
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MS. JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Thursday, February 17, 2011  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Senator Espero, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Renee Laulusa and I am submitting written testimony in support of your favorable confirmation of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

I have known Ms. Maesaka-Hirata for the last twenty (20) years. She has held various positions, within the Department, throughout the years. I have had the opportunity to work directly with her for the majority of my career. I have found her to be fair minded, compassionate, and of sound thinking. She has exhibited high morals and strong ethics throughout her career. She has always been a "How can I make things better?" type of person. She is not above trying to "right the wrongs" created by others.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata faces many challenges if confirmed as Director of Public Safety. I am confident that with the assistance of staff members that support her vision for the Department, she will be able to handle any task that is put before her. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is only as good as the employees who support her and I am only one of many employees who support Ms. Maesaka-Hirata.

As with all nominees, you will have a limited number of individuals speaking against her confirmation. I ask that you look at the bearers of opposition and recognize the motive(s) behind their message. The minority (anonymous or otherwise) does not speak on behalf of the hundreds of PSD employees who support Ms. Maesaka-Hirata.

I ask that you take my written testimony into consideration and it is my hope that you will confirm Ms. Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

---

**From:** Jim Crowe [maucrowe@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:49 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 513 Confirmation Hearing

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs  
Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Thursday February 17, 2011  
2:45 pm  
Room 224

Dear Senator Espero,

My name is Jim Crowe. I support the confirmation of Nominee Jodie Maesaka-Hirata because she has come up through the ranks in Public Safety. Along the way she has absorbed a good grasp of the Department as it operates from the bottom-up and also has a very clear understanding of how it functions from the top-down.

She will see to it that the public is well served. She also already demonstrates a strong loyalty to her superiors and top-down advisors.

I speak from twenty five years experience of service to young people and adults in their efforts to overcome addictions. That includes inmates and former inmates. Along with direct service, I have served on boards of directors and as the staff person responsible to boards. I recognize the nominee's combination of skills both in direct service and in management.

Jim Crowe  
Kula  
[maucrowe@gmail.com](mailto:maucrowe@gmail.com)  
808 876 1975

Mailing List

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:39 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** tebeloo@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Arliss Stanley  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tebeloo@yahoo.com](mailto:tebeloo@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

**Comments:**

As a longtime friend of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, I would like to ask your support in her confirmation as Director of Public Safety. Governor Abercrombie has nominated one of the most loyal and devoted people I know for the position, and I say this with all sincerity.

Jodie and I have known each other since we were six years old and both graduated from Pearl City High School in 1984. Growing up, I found her to be a true friend, sticking by me but always being truthful with me. She worked very hard to help her parents around the house and was much more responsible than most people our age.

This sense of responsibility and upholding integrity carried over into Jodie's adulthood. After graduating from high school, she went on to pursue her Bachelor's in Social Work at UH Manoa and then continued on to receive her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Chaminade U.

Jodie has worked for the State of Hawaii since 1989 and started at Halawa Correctional Facility. She went on to work for the Dept of Human Services and Education and returned to Public Safety in 1992. She has been a social worker in all correctional facilities on Oahu, and was Acting Warden at the Waiawa Facility before accepting the position of Director of Public Safety.

Jodie loves her job and has proven her dedication to the people, the State of Hawaii, and to the Department by applying her education and service over the past 22 years. She is well-qualified for this current position!

She is married to a very supportive husband and has one son. Jodie is very dedicated to her family and I admire her for keeping her life so well-balanced with her busy schedule.

Please support the confirmation of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for Director of Public Safety. She is a hard worker who loves what she does, and I know she will continue to give 100% and more to serve the people of our beautiful State.

Sincerely, Arliss Stanley



**From:** Bobby Maesaka [mailto:sifubob@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 10:58 PM  
**To:** Sen. Will Espero  
**Subject:**

Hello Senator,

I support Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to be the next Director of Public Safety. Jodie has been with Public Safety since 1989. She has worked at every Correctional facilities on this island.

In short, Jodie started at Halawa High Correctional Facility has worked with inmates and staff alike, she has put a budget plan for Laumaka Work Furlough Program as the Laumaka Administrator, worked on putting a Work Furlough Programs as the temporary acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility.

These are just some of the reason why I support Jodie Maesaka-Hirata. I believe that she she has plans to work with the Governor, for changes in the Department and she would be a great asset to the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for your time,  
Robert S. Maesaka

**PACITA L. AQUINO**  
91-1 137 KAMA'AHA LP., #2F  
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
CELLULAR #: (808) 358-9973  
E-MAIL: [ramzynmetwo@yahoo.com](mailto:ramzynmetwo@yahoo.com)

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Government Operations and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Rm. 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

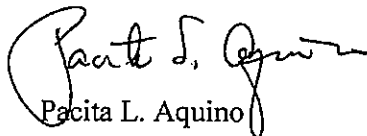
Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Interim Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's appointment as the Director of Department of Public Safety.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's knowledge and experience over the years as a Social Worker and Acting Warden within the Department of Public Safety, I believe, makes her well qualified to lead this department. Her dedication and compassion about her work and this department makes Ms. Maesaka-Hirata a valued asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
Pacita L. Aquino

The Honorable Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 9681

January 26, 2011

Dear Senator Espero:

I support Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the position as Director of Public Safety. Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata is fully qualified to operate the state's public safety department

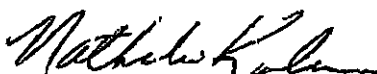
I have worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata while she held the position as the Corrections Program Manager for volunteers and religion services, and witnessed the creative programs that she developed for inmates and their families, such as Kid's Day at the Women's Correctional Center (WCCC). In addition, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata was also instrumental implementing the fathers' Read-to-Me program for inmates housed at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF).

Later Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata held positions as Administrator for the Laumaka Work Furlough Program located at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and Acting Warden at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF), in which she was creative with re-entry programs for inmates, collaborating with industries and the community. Ms. Maesaka-Hirata diligently implemented meaningful work and technical training in hydroponic farming, culinary arts, masonry and other vocational trades so that inmates would gain on-the-job experience upon their release.

I have known Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata over fifteen years and know that she has the academic background and empirical knowledge in criminal justice and Hawaii's penal system, and a visionary to manage an innovative public safety department for the state.

I hope you and your committee support the gubernatorial nominee Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to be the first woman as the Director of Public Safety for this twenty-first century. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

  
Nathalie Kodama

Private Citizen

Ruth C. Forbes  
286 Kolepa Place  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Senator Will Espero and Senator Michelle Kidani,

I am writing this letter in support for the confirmation of Mrs. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I have professionally known Jodie for the last fourteen years of my employment at the Department of Public Safety, and at one time in our careers we both managed re-entry programs for inmates. She was never afraid to make unpopular decisions, but always considered the opinions of others. Jodie went beyond conventional correctional programming and implement new programs at WCCC and OCCC. She utilized whatever resources were available for the betterment of the facility she worked at and the programs she supervised. Due to her experience and knowledge of corrections, I have personally called Jodie on many occasions to discuss issues with her as I valued her opinion.

Jodie has demonstrated such great leadership skills while managing the Offender Services Unit at the Women's Community Correctional Center, the Laumaka Furlough Program at the Oahu Community Correctional Center, and then as the Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility. Therefore, I have no doubt that she will be a great leader for the Department of Public Safety. She possesses experience, knowledge of the correctional system, integrity, and more importantly she has a desire to move our department forward and make changes. This is evidenced by her recent move to support the governor in his efforts to bring incarcerated individuals home for re-entry. As a supervisor for the re-entry program at the Hawaii Community Correctional Center, I look forward to working with her as the director for our department.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Forbes

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 2:43 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** moeponos001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sesnita Moepono  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [moeponos001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:moeponos001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

i

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 2:56 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** woku@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: William Oku, Jr.  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [woku@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:woku@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 5:32 PM  
To: PGM Testimony  
Cc: KNCKOOBS@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carolee Kubo  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [KNCKOOBS@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:KNCKOOBS@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

I fully support the nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Dept. of Public Safety. I have known Jodie for over 12 years and she is very knowledgeable about all aspects of the department and her integrity is of the highest level. I respectfully ask your support of her nomination as Director for PSD.

John Borders

520 Lunalilo Home Road, Apt. 8406

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

February 17, 2011

TESTIMONY IN SUPPOR OF THE NOMINATION OF

JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

GM 513

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

From: John Borders

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata as Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). Over the past twenty years, I have had the good fortune to have worked with Ms. Maesaka-Hirata since, like Jodie, I have also made my career in Hawaii Corrections. Most recently, I assisted Jodie and her staff at the Waiawa Correctional Facility implement several capital improvements that once completed addresses many of the problems they encountered in their daily activities.

Jodie has worked in both staff administrative positions as well as having gained line experience in several critical areas including "Volunteers-in-Corrections, returning felons back into the community through the furlough program and, most recently, as the acting warden of the State's largest minimum-security prison facility and home of the main Substance Abuse program for male felons.

Initially, I was apprehensive for Jodie's deciding to accept Governor Abercrombie's offer for the PSD Directorship. I worried that she might easily be "worn down" by the rigors of one of the most demanding jobs in state government. However, in the few short weeks that she has served thus far as our Interim Director, she's shown me a resilience that is borne out of her delightfully transparent enthusiasm. I am exceptionally impressed with how rapidly she's demonstrated a thorough grasping of the issues surrounding the department's capital improvements program and can only conclude that she has impressed fellow PSD colleagues in other areas of our department with how quickly she has grasped their issues, too.



The Honorable Will Espero, Chair

February 17, 2011

Page 2

[Type text] [Type text]

Your committee should take the steps necessary to confirm Ms. Maesaka-Hirata's nomination as the PSD Director because she can bring real hope to "shift the paradigm" in Hawaii's correctional system. She can, in my view, enable our department to realize the desperately needed changes that must be implemented – changes that the multitude of her predecessors tried to make and fell short in their attempts. I firmly believe Jodie will succeed in this quest. She will "break the mold" in our approach to correctional system governance. The State of Hawaii will be the beneficiaries of these changes. With the support of you and your committee in this nomination process, our department will reach its full potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to to share my thoughts with you.

[Type text]

[Type text] [Type text]

Testimony for PGM 2/17/11 2:45:00 PM GM 213

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee. I am Lt. Shawn H. Tsuha of the State Sheriff Division and I am writing in SUPPORT of this nomination. I have been employed with the State for over 19 years, and also currently serve as a Major in the Hawaii Army National Guard. Although, I have only met Interim Director Maesaka-Hirata once, I know that she is eminently qualified to execute the duties of the position. She has served within the ranks of Public Safety and has worked her way through various positions of responsibility to get where she is now. However, what I feel is most important, is her devotion and passion, for the personnel of this Department. Indeed, she has both a professional, and personal, links to the Department. I feel that her dedication, and compassion for the employees, as well as the custodies/wards that are our responsibility, will get this Department through the current constraints and limitations forced upon the state.

Lt. Shawn H. Tsuha,  
Administration, Sheriff Division, Department of Public Safety



## *Mayor's Office of Community Services*

**Central Administration**  
990 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123  
Phone: (215) 685-3600 • Fax: (215) 685-3501

---

---

February 17, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear, Mr. Treat:

As the director of the Fatherhood Initiative Program for the City of Philadelphia and Offender Workforce Development Specialist under the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), I whole heartily support the appointment of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to the Director of the Department of Public Safety. I trained with Jodie at the NIC and got a chance to observe her commitment and dedication to the field of corrections and public safety.

Again I am pleased to offer my support to the appointment of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata to the Director of Public Safety for the great state of Hawaii.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Gilbert A. Coleman*

Gilbert A. Coleman, GCDF  
Director, Fatherhood Initiative Program  
Mayor's Office of Community Services

February 7, 2011

Honorable Senator Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: GM513

Dear Honorable Senator Espero:

This letter is in support of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety (Head of the State Prison System and Law Enforcement). It is an honorable position which I feel Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is well qualified for. Her knowledge and experience is an asset that will contribute to the success within the Department of Public Safety.

Ms. Maesaka-Hirata is my first cousin and I write from my heart to convey that she always had the personality and tenacity to stand up for what was right and always seemed to know how to resolve issues as we were growing up. It was no surprise when she selected the field of social work and public safety as her lifelong career choice. We all felt that it was the perfect field for her. Most recently, when it was announced that she was selected by the Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie to head the Department of Public Safety, I, along with my family members, felt proud and immediately knew that she was an excellent person to fulfill the vital duty to help protect and correct the public's safety in the State of Hawaii. She is a humble person who is easy to work with and her fair judgment will truly be an asset to the department and ultimately, the State of Hawaii.

Honorable Senator Espero, I would like to close this letter of support for Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety by humbly requesting that she be approved and confirmed by the Senate. It is with confidence that I end by stating that Ms. Maesaka-Hirata will work very hard and go above and beyond to face current issues and positively contribute to the Department of Public Safety and the people of Hawaii.

Most humbly yours,

Lori Ann S. Miyakawa

February 16, 2011

Senator Wil Espero  
Senator Michelle Kidani  
Senator Shan Tsutsui  
Hawaii State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA

Governor's Message #513

Dear Senators:

I am writing this letter in support of Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata's appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. I have known Jodie for almost 15 years, and first met her while enrolled in the Master's of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program at Chaminade University.

During our graduate studies, Jodie demonstrated her great organizational skills by developing and implementing a pilot program at the Women's Community Correctional Center. This pilot program was designed to help female offenders transition back into the community by providing classes on job readiness skills, resume building, budgeting, women's health, personal hygiene, rebuilding family relationships, and self-confidence. This pilot project was a success with the female offenders we worked with, and opened the doors to future projects. Jodie's ability to pilot a project like this while in graduate school is an example of her great leadership abilities, talent, and dedication to her profession in the correctional field.

Jodie's dedication to her work also carries over to her family, whom are very important to her. This past year was a test of her willpower and ability to persevere through difficult times. Jodie's mother and mother-in-law were both diagnosed with cancer, and her husband suffered a stroke over the holidays. In spite of these unfortunate circumstances, Jodie continued to serve as the Acting Warden of Waiawa Correctional Facility while balancing the demands and responsibility of raising a child and taking care of sick family members.

It is with these reasons I offer my support in confirming Jodie as the new Director of the Department of Public Safety without reservations.

Sincerely,

Mark and Diane Linscott

--  

---

**From:** lele [dancercat3@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:02 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** GM513

Aloha, Chair Espero, and members of the Committee.

My name is Kalei Jaramillo, and I am writing regarding GM513- submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of Public Safety, Gubernatorial nominee, Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, for a term to expire December 1, 2014, with strong support. This is so very important to me (and my husband), as he is one of the many "existing" in Saguaro Prison. I have spoken personally with this nominee, and truly believe that she really cares, and is quite capable of accomplishing great things, with intelligence, integrity, and compassion. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony. Sincerely, Kalei Jaramillo. Lahaina. [dancercat3@hotmail.com](mailto:dancercat3@hotmail.com)

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:05 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** dancercat3@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kalei Jaramillo  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [dancercat3@hotmail.com](mailto:dancercat3@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:09 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** cokano1017@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Craig Okano  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [cokano1017@yahoo.com](mailto:cokano1017@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

Dear Sir/ Maam,

I am submitting this testimony from the stand point of both a concern citizen of the state of Hawaii and as a law enforcement officer. As you maybe aware, a recent audit of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) clearly showed an extreme lack of leadership and law enforcement experience by DPS administration. I do not know Ms. MAESAKA-HIRATA'S law enforcement experience or her leadership abilities, I do have a serious concern about her recent appointments to administrative positions. Her recent appointments of Mr. Keith KAMITA to the position of Deputy Director of Law Enforcement and Mr. Patrick NAKASHIMA to the position of Acting Chief of Internal Affairs (IA). To my knowledge, both of these individuals do not have any law enforcement academy training, in fact Mr. NAKASHIMA failed a DPS law enforcement academy. In my experience with the State Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED), Mr. KAMITA and his investigators failed the people of the state of Hawaii by their extreme inability to process felony narcotic cases through the proper judicial channels. In my experience, only an estimated less than 1% of felony narcotic cases referred to NED has successfully reached proper judicial action. In fact in my interactions with both high level and street level narcotic traffickers both view NED as a complete mockery and "joke". To my understanding, Mr. KAMITA has also been involved in at least two legal litigations where he has been at fault and the people of state of Hawaii had to incur the financial costs of these litigations. In a recent IA investigation headed by Mr. NAKASHIMA, a highly nationally recognized legal counsel described Mr. NAKASHIMA'S investigation and conclusion as, "inept" and "showed a complete lack of investigative experience and knowledge." Both of these appointments by Ms. MAESAKA-HIRATA also conflicts with the state audit because none of these individuals qualify to be CALEA certified as directed by the audit. None of these individuals also have any street level patrol experience which also is clearly evident in their decisions and leadership. How can these individuals govern the actions of law enforcement personnel when they themselves have no knowledge of the extreme stressors and decision making that law enforcement personnel must deal with on a daily basis. This appears to be another example of nepotism in the DPS. The recent audit clearly indicated that DPS must be CALEA certified, clearly Ms. MAESAKA-HIRATA does not understand this because these appointees are not CALEA certifiable. Please question Ms. MAESAKA-HIRATA on at least these appointments!!! Thank you very much for your time!!!



---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 3:53 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** Colin.K.Malani@Hawaii.Gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM513 on 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/17/2011 2:45:00 PM GM513

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Colin Kalama Malani  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Colin.K.Malani@Hawaii.Gov](mailto:Colin.K.Malani@Hawaii.Gov)  
Submitted on: 2/17/2011

Comments:

Aloha, representatives in committee, I'm a Sgt.w/SD-30 yrs, since 1981, 1st DS class, widower, father of 3, grandfather of 3, currently at HIA. Prior to the departure of former Director of Public Safety Mr. Clayton FRANK, the now-Interim Dir. HIRATA was strongly advised to support the Auditors report in 6/10-#10-06 to the Legislature re: Sheriff's LE Separation & Accreditation, LE revision of LE P&P's, SD-BW Backlog, LE Radio Communications, State-OAHU relocation of SD/Receiving Desk at Halawa elsewhere to more centralized facility - earlier suggested was OCCC/Module 5 ISC/Intake of PSD which houses Pre-Arrestment Misd. & Sentenced Misd. to no avail. Mrs. HIRATA's background is Sociology/Corrections based and not conducive to LE concerns, LE trends, growth & projections. She would do well as a Director for the Dept. of Corrections & not as a "Sheriff." Read Joe's Law (Sheriff Joe Arapaio) Former PSD LE's (Former Police Chiefs & Prosecutors) PSD former Directors, Candidates & Administrators such as Fritz KLATTENHOFF, Harold FALK, Guy HALL, Marc OLEY, Keith KANESHIRO, Jeff YAMASHITA, Ewalani WHITE, Rudy ALEIVADO, Sid HIYAKAWA, Robert CHEE, Ernest MORITOMO, Roger LAU, Danny FERNANDEZ, Willard GILBERT, John SOUZA, John BORGES, Ed HOWARD, Herman MOORE, John LUM, Frank DELAROSA were all former HPD Police, Prosecutors and Sheriff's that would attest that you can't serve two masters - Corrections & Law Enforcement. The current 2010 PSD-SD audit calls for the re-evaluation and planning improvements to the SD infra-structure based upon LE emphasis and separation of resources and assets from Corrections. Mrs. HIRATA's limited Corrections, Bus. based sociology/background seeks to provide a career ladder for ACO's as Peace Officers with the assumption of Police Arrest Powers as in California that are currently enforced by Sheriff's deputies. Mrs. HIRATA has asked LE for a "status quo or no separation of powers until 2015." In 7/90 under Act 211, Sheriff's (HGEA) were absorbed into the new PSD as a Housekeeping measure which in 7/89 the Corrections (UPW) branch had already formed the PSD infrastructure to accommodate its growth, to control LE resources, Sheriff's, SLEO, Harbors, Marine Patrol & NED Budgets & Assets. 1992 I testified to retain our State Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff titles were being stripped and absorbed by PSD. We were to be known as "Special Services Deputies," our duties, ID, integrity, representations, responsibilities which are LE specific such as County Police, Federal Marshal that are unique & distinct would be used to upgrade ACO's. The State PSD Director & Deputy for LE requires visionary individuals w/short, long term goals, mission & objectives. These LE pre-requisites are clearly lacking with her appointment as the PSD Director &

her appointments for Dep-LE, in charge of Law Enforcement together w/her IAO admin chief appointment. Mahalo for your support and aloha.

TESTIMONY OF  
JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
THE TWENTY-SIXTY LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY ON GM 513 RELATING TO JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA FOR THE  
POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide you with this testimony.

My name is Jodie Maesaka-Hirata and I am deeply honored and humbled to be nominated by our State of Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie serve as the Department of Public Safety's Director. I would like to thank the Governor's Transition Team for their hard work and dedication in reviewing all those who applied to be a part of the Governor's New Day in Hawai'i team. And, I would like to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for providing me this opportunity to be considered for this position to serve the people of Hawai'i.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge my family who me that have supported me in my life. My husband, Guy, my son Guysen, my mother Irene Maesaka, my brother Robert Maesaka and my sister-in-law Gina and Guy's parents Mamoru and Lily Hirata and his sisters Ann Cowels and Donna Hirata and their families. I thank my husband especially for his countless hours of being the primary caregiver to our son and parent since I accepted this job. Without his understanding, love and support I would not be sitting in front of you now.

There is one other individual who I would like to acknowledge as well. Although he is not with us any longer my father, Sueki also known as Bobby Maesaka, I believe if it were not for my father's career choice, I would not be sitting here today. Some of you may know that my personal background and love for the Department of Public Safety comes from my family history, which includes my father working as a Prison Guard from 1959 to 1984. My brother is currently a Sergeant at the Oahu Community Correctional Center. I strongly believe that strong families leave lasting impressions on their children. I believe that I am a product of this. I share this with you today as I clearly see the foundation that my parents laid for us about serving those in the public. My father shared many years ago that working in the prison system was not an easy job, but someone had to do it. I thought, he and his colleagues some of who are here today were a little crazy for risking their lives.

What I also saw was the compassion the Prison Guards had for the kids and families of those incarcerated. They spoke a lot about what would happen to these families. I suppose this why I chose the field of social work. My house was like a refuge for the neighborhood kids some who are sitting in here now. As a young social worker, I was given the opportunity to work for a very feared Warden by the name of William Oku at Halawa Correctional Facility. Mr. Oku was large in stature but had a heart of gold when it came to his staff. But, trust me, my first day there, I thought about the conversation I had with my dad about being crazy to work in a prison. Five days after starting at Halawa, my father passed away. However, before he died, he said, "Jodie, I know you will make a good social worker. Just remember the inmates are people who made mistakes and that their sentences are their punishment. It is not for the staff to make their lives harder, but to make their lives better." As I recall this conversation, I

recalled earlier times in which on he shared that most of the inmate will be returning to our communities. He was right. Within walking distance of where I live there are individuals who have returned from prison for crimes, which included: murder, manslaughter, promoting dangerous drugs, and lists goes on. There is a crisis shelter that the Department of Health runs two doors over from where I live. What my dad said was true. We needed to make the difference in the inmates' lives so that they would become productive citizens with prosocial lives. We did not want them returning to the neighborhoods ill prepared and resorting to the life of crime.

I believe my educational background and years of experience in Corrections provides me with a vast knowledge base, which equips me for the challenge as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. My educational background includes a Bachelors of Science in Social Work from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from the Chaminade University of Honolulu. Work history includes working as a social worker for the Departments of Corrections, Human Services, Education and Public Safety between 1989 to 1994. Working as a social work supervisor with the Department of Public Safety from 1994 to 2007, which included overseeing the Volunteer and Religious Programs, Waiawa Correctional Facility's Offender Services Section, Women's Community Correctional Center's Offender Services Section and the Community Based Section at the Oahu Community Correctional Center. During my career, I was involved in writing grants to assist the Oahu Community Correctional Center create the Day Reporting Center, the Women's Community Correctional Center to start a gender responsive program for women offenders, and I became an accredited Offender Workforce Development Specialist by the National Career Development Association and the National Institute for

Testimony of Jodie Maesaka-Hirata  
February 16, 2011

Corrections, and a Peer Support Trainer by the National Institute for Corrections and the Honolulu Police Department.

In January 2008, I was assigned as the Acting Warden of the Waiawa Correctional Facility until December 6, 2010, when I was assigned as the Interim Director of the Department of Public Safety. As an Administrator in different branches within Corrections, I developed skills on preparing budgets and expenditure plans involving personnel, special funds, operational, repair and maintenance costs. I was also involved in developing testimony and reports for the Hawaii State Legislature, Report for the Department, involved in the planning of several Capitol Improvement Projects for the various some of which included renovations of our Correctional Facilities, program space designs for programs such as re-entry programs.

Within all of this, I believe that being a woman in a predominately men's environment has also been a great learning experience. When I entered the Corrections field as a social worker nearly twenty-two years ago, women were looked as objects and insignificant to contribute to any decision making process. In fact, I experienced being locked in corridors with maximum security inmates and having the ACOs laugh at me to see what my response would be. However, those who knew this type of behavior was unacceptable would come forth and ensure that I did not panic and was encouraged to go about my business. What I found that my inner strength of never giving up on what is right became my biggest asset.

I no longer cried when the "big burley" men yelled at me for ringing the buzzer twice after waiting ten minutes for them to open the door. I was able to gain their respect by respecting what they did and encouraging them to do better at what they were doing.

This included utilizing the Unit Team Management (UTM) concept, which I learned

early on in my career. I apply the UTM concept wherever I work as it helps to build the morale of the staff you are working with. This empowers staff to bring forth their ideas and suggestions that many time results in positive contributions to difficult situations. This also provides the staff the feeling that they are important and embraced by their leadership. I believe I have the ability to bring people together with a common goal and to bridge the gaps to create solid partnerships that help enhance what our abilities as workers to serve the people of Hawaii better. And, I am proud to say that this is one of my best assets. In my view, this is how paradigms begin to shift and staff begin to believe that they are important to the overall picture and begin to understand and take seriously their role in Public Safety. We are in the business of changing behavior. To have effective change and effect change on others we must begin with ourselves. I will never forget these three words. Approach Determines Response. These three words have a major impact in all that this Department represents.

I would like to share the goals and objectives I am looking at for Public Safety. Most of these goals come from working with dedicated experience staff that have worked for the Department for years and who know what it will take to move this Department forward.

- Changing the attitude and image of Public Safety-(ongoing process)
  - We are here to serve, protect and be change advocates for the next generation
  - The focus is on health and safety for staff and offenders
  - Boosting morale of Department through support, training and empowerment
  - Boosting the image of the Department through community activities through inmate worklines, volunteerism, public relations and partnerships with other agencies needing assistance
  - Reviewing Gender Responsivity for those who work for us as well as those we serve

- Creating a Employees Assistance Program (EAP)-
  - With a proactive safety program which the Department Personnel Officer is currently reviewing for reinstatement. (18 months)
  - Creating a Peer Support Unit for those who are in need of assistance and support (24 months)
  - Develop policies and procedures that fall in line with the mission of a EAP (24 months)
  - Continue working with Labor Unions on improving morale issues, sick leave patterns, and staffing concerns (ongoing)
  
- Law Enforcement (LE)
  - Raising the bar of expectation with professionalism and integrity by model, training, cross training with other LE agencies. (Ongoing process)
  - Improving work ethics through modeling and training. (Ongoing process)
  - Preparing for APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Conference Nov. 2011- in process now)
  - Conducting a Risk Assessment (18 months)
    - Inclusive of creating a Fiscally sound policy which monitors spending and improvements
    - Inclusive of improving existing Strategic Plan
  - Beginning the Accreditation process with CALEA (The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement)- (To commence process upon completion of Risk Assessment)
  - Bridging Statutory Requirements with PSD Policies and updating P&Ps (As identified through Risk Assessment)
  - Inclusive of updating all LE policies, training process, ensure required training occurs, cross-training (As identified through Risk Assessment and as scheduling permits)
  - Leadership Training (ongoing process)
  - Mentoring the next generation (ongoing process)
  
- Community Involvement (ongoing process)
  - Getting back to basic Volunteerism
  - Community Service Projects that help the community (e.g. cleaning parks, beaches, invasive species, etc) with Community Services Worklines from the Facilities
  - Inmate Art Contests that provide for creativity and change in paradigm from I am no good to I have hidden talents in which I can share
  - Toys for Keikis- which provides the offenders opportunities to craft hand made products to provide for needed children that are dispersed during the holiday season
  - Promote positive public relations by participating in proactive community activities.



- Corrections

- Raising the bar of expectation with professionalism and integrity (ongoing process)
- Improving work ethics through modeling and training (ongoing process)
- Create a Master Plan for the Correctional Institutions based on:
  - Risk/needs analysis of all existing offenders to determine the appropriate types of secured and minimum/community based bed spaces that the Department needs through PSD's Inmate Classification System update. This would include all medium security and higher classification.
  - Reviewing the needs to reopen Kulani Correctional Center such as obtaining an EIS, preparing a budget to ensure infrastructure is sound, preparing personnel and operational budget that is to include all programs and medical costs to return inmates to KCF. This is a vital step in returning the inmates home to their communities. KCF provides opportunities for education, treatment services and needed employment and/or vocational training that the inmates need to improve their chances of remaining home once paroled.
  - Reviewing plans to expand Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) for the same reason as reopening KCF. It will provide opportunities for education, treatment services and needed employment and/or vocational training that the inmates need to improve their chances of remaining home once paroled. Moreover, WCF has the ability to increase community-based beds for furlough participation.
  - Planning and begin the designed for the necessary repair and/or maintenance of existing facilities such as repairing the roofs, sew treatment ponds, roadways, water catchments, laundry areas, etc.
  - Plan and design for additional jail and/or prison beds needed
  - A systems analysis which includes risk and/or breaches for Security
  - Reviewing the National Institutions Management Systems (NIMS) standards set by the American Corrections Association
  - Develop appropriate operational and CIP budgets to address security breaches based on infrastructure
  - Developing appropriate budget to train for staff to address security breaches and to ensure that proper safety equipment is obtained for securing an offender
- Preparing for APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Conference Nov. 2011-currently occurring)
- Improving training
- Leadership Training: inclusive of updating training process, ensure required training occurs, cross-training
- Mentoring the next generation of staff to take leadership roles

- Re-entry/ Transition Services
  - Create a Statewide Re-entry Team to:
  - Conduct an analysis of what programs and resources are available
  - Develop a strategic plan to that coordinates all statewide re-entry programming based on evidence-practices
  - Identify beds available for treatment services in the community (e.g. substance abuse, mental health, long-term care, etc.)
  - Develop scope of services that are holistic and are based on need while keeping risk factors involved. Services should include: employment develop, employment maintenance, daily life skills, financial maintenance, family reunification processes, overall health needs, etc.)
  - Utilizing assessment and skills that are evidence-based to work with offenders
  - Community Partnerships such as Re-Entry Commission, HOPE Project
  - Justice Reinvestment ideas that redirect monies from hard prison beds to community programs
  - Mentoring
  - Higher Education
  - Training in Trades
  - Correctional Industries
  - Visions for sustainability
  - Sharing of resources
  - Applying for Grants
  - Partnerships with Private Sector
  - Infusing Trades in development of skills
  - Continue to train Social Workers in evidence-based practices to enhance the continuum of care process for all offenders

It is my plan to fulfill the Governor's desire to return inmates who are house on the United States Continent within the next four years, providing that PSD obtains the necessary support from the community and Hawaii State Legislature to ensure that our Correctional Facilities are sound and can appropriately secure the necessary bed space to return these individuals to our islands. This will be my top priority for Corrections in the biennium. PSD will need approximately eighteen to twenty-four months to create a sound master plan for its Corrections Institutions. During this period, it is my plan with the assistance from Hawaii State Legislature to allow PSD to reinvest funds saved from the Mainland contract to continue to return from the Mainland those who are eligible for

minimum and/or community-based programming as these beds become available in Hawaii. This will include reviewing all agencies that are designed to work with offenders who are transitioning back to the community, in hopes of securing additional community-based beds for such programming through Hawaii's procurement process. I am counting on the Hawaii State Legislature to ensure that the funds slated for the mainland contract remain in the Department of Public Safety to be reinvested in these plans as stated.

In addition, I will make every effort to work with the Law Enforcement Division and Law Enforcement Community to ensure that the Sheriffs work towards accreditation. In recent conversation with Honolulu Police Department Chief Louis Kealoha, he indicated that the accreditation process took them three years of planning before they actually applied for the three-year accreditation period. He related that it was very important to be prepared for accreditation by reviewing, changing and aligning current practices, policies and statues to what the Department has determined our mission for Law Enforcement to be. Chief Kealoha also related that without proper planning for the accreditation process, the Department would be wasting money that could be spent on other needed items and/or training. With that said, it is my goal that the Risk Assessment be conducted as recommended by the Hawaii State Auditor's Office and addressed accordingly prior to application for accreditation as well. This will allow the Sheriffs to be well-prepared and standardized as group as they eventually go through the accreditation process. The overall goal for the Law Enforcement Division is to work towards accreditation through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement.

Serving the Department of Public Safety comes with unique challenges, however, I believe if I am given this opportunity to serve as the Director, I will be able to move the Department forward with the Team assembled by the Governor and with the continued hard work of the employees of the Department. I believe that I am a person who is fair, firm and consistent with a heart of compassion to effect change on the lives of others. I am here to lift our staff to the next level of commitment, integrity and professionalism and to service those who return to our communities.

I whole-heartedly thank my family members, friends, those who have taken the time to mentor me as a professional, and my esteemed colleagues who constantly inspire me and have supported me in my career. I also thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for his confidence in me and thank this committee for allowing me this opportunity to appear before you and for considering my nomination.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jodie Maesaka-Hirata